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Woodbury, Conn.

and the

Colonial Homes

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Introduction

The Souvenir of Woodbury includes historical writings by members of the Woman's Club on afternoons in the care of Mrs. N. M. Strong and Miss Lottie Hitchcock, with interesting descriptions of Woodbury and the beautiful scenery of the valley of the Pomperaug. Around this beautiful valley like gems amid the forest covered hills are clusters of fine New England homes, and through its broad extent are choice colonial houses. Here dwelt our forefathers who held just opinions on the great questions of life and were loyal to their homes and country. "Their faithful arms have toiled to crown with peace their own untainted soil and true to God and freedom will arise guardians of the land till 'oer the hills the shouts of triumph rise."

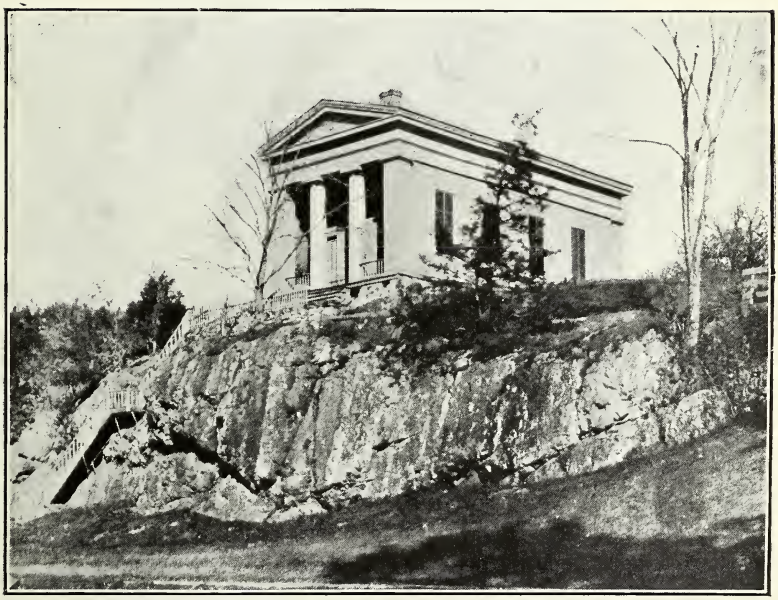
"Brave men were our grandsires
Sturdy and strong,
They were stern in their virtues
And hated all wrong."

V.W. 1166 - 5-23-74 Goodspeed

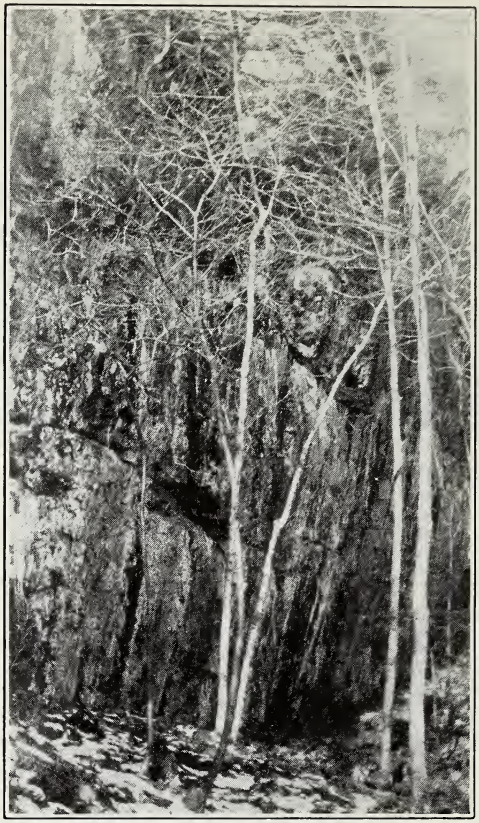
For the historical facts regarding the early history of Woodbury, acknowledgement is expressed to Cothren's History of Woodbury, to the statistical records of the Town, and grateful appreciation to residents of Woodbury for valuable information, for assistance with illustrations and for co-operation for the completion.

The arrangement of these writings has been made by Mrs. Julia Minor Strong.

The Pomperaug River—Woodbury



King Solomon's Lodge and Sentinel Rock



Bethel Rock

The White Village of Woodbury

To Good Hill they came, those courageous and sturdy founders, and from that elevation, more than 260 years ago, they looked down into the valley cradle of the wilderness of Pomperaug, named for an Indian chieftain. The bear, wolf, moose, deer, and wild-cat then roamed its hills and vales; numerous tribes of redmen peopled its forests.

Today from Good Hill on the west, or from Sherman Hill, an eastern elevation, one sees a beautiful, fertile valley where cluster the white buildings of the ancient town of Woodbury, meaning: "A dwelling place in the woods." Its five church spires ever point upward and everywhere its old, old shade trees lift their branches to the breezes.

The main street of the village is said to follow the line of an old Indian trail. This trail led past the grave of Chief Pomperaug, and according to the Indian custom, as each warrior passed the sacred spot on his various expeditions, he dropped a pebble there in honor of his chieftain's memory. A large pile of pebbles had accumulated at this

consecrated grave previous to the settlement of the town. The spot is now marked by a huge boulder located nearly opposite King Solomon's lodge, and to the west of the main street on land now owned by John N. Munson.

Passing through Woodbury one sees on the top of a perpendicular rock, rising some fifty feet from the level of the main street, facing the west, a white building with the letter "G" in the pendiment and two columns on the porch. This is the home of King Solomon's lodge, No. 7, and it is distinguished as being one of the oldest of Masonic lodges in Connecticut. To reach the porch of the building it is necessary to ascend a flight of stairs which are supported by iron rods fastened in front of the rock. Among the many ancient articles belonging to the lodge is the emblematic carpet covering the entire floor, on which nearly all the tools, implements and symbols of the first three degrees of Masonry are delineated in colors.

VIEW FROM ORENAUG TOWER

A few hundred feet east of the village is a range of cliffs, the Orenaug range, and on the summit of these rocks of Orenaug, in a beautiful grove of pines, has been erected an iron tower, eighty feet high. The road leading from the park gates to the tower is traversable by auto, or it may be enjoyed as a pleasant stroll. The views of six surrounding towns may be obtained from the observatory. Here, in a retired spot on the east side of Orenaug rocks, between the cliffs, religious services were held by the early settlers of the town. Sentinels stood on the top of adjacent rocks to guard against surprise from savage foes. A rude stone pulpit still stands in the lonely dell, and the place received the name of Bethel Rock.

THE LEGEND OF WARAMAUKEAG

Lovers of romance will be interested in the legend told in connection with these cliffs. Waramaukeag, as the story goes, was an Indian who was highly intelligent, virtuous, and a fast friend of the whites. He had constructed for himself a cabin of uncommon elegance, and had adopted many of the customs of civilization. Among his friends he numbered the venerable pastor, Mr. Walker, who instructed him in matters of religious faith. Being frequently at the pastor's house, Waramaukeag became acquainted with his beautiful young niece, and soon was madly in love with her. He endeavored to gain her favor by laying at her feet many rich and rare presents, but she, understanding their import, kindly declined them all.

One evening, as the sun was setting, the young woman wandered up the cliff path to Bethel Rock which was her favorite resort. As she lingered there in pious meditation, Waramaukeag suddenly appeared. When the maiden saw him she started backward in alarm and being near the edge of the precipice, she fell upon the jagged rocks below and was killed. When found next morning by her anxious friends, no evidence of violence appeared, except that received by the fall. However, a short distance from her body, lay the mangled form of Waramaukeag, and it was believed that after vain attempts to renew life in the maiden, the Indian has smoothed her hair and clothing, again ascended the cliff, and had thrown himself from the height in order to join her spirit.

NONNEWAUG FALLS

Near the north east corner of Woodbury, at the upper end of Nonnewaug plain, are located Nonnewaug falls. They are in the deep recesses of the forests, and are a succession of cascades, three in number, the whole descent being over 100 feet. At the foot of each cascade is

a beautiful basin, forty to fifty feet in diameter, surrounded by high cliffs, or walls of rock, surmounted by lofty trees. It is as wild and romantic a spot as can anywhere be found. The legend connected with these falls has been forgotten by all but the very aged. The story is brief. Womoqui, an aged Sagamore, residing at the falls, could not bear the thought of living on land that the white men had purchased. Accordingly, one day he crawled forth from his cabin, seated himself on the rock at the upper cascade of the falls, sung, in feeble tones, his own requiem, and cast himself into the flood below. The falls, however, are not named for the Indian of the legend, but for the tribe of Nonnewaug red men. At a short distance below the falls repose the remains of the Chief Nonnewaug. The falling waters ever sing a requiem over the sleeping chieftain and his braves around him.

A walk through the old cemetery, the burying ground of the forefathers, should prove interesting. Here one may see stones that bear the dates of days when Woodbury was young, and the wording of some of the epitaphs is also an echo of ancient times.

THE GLEBE HOUSE

Turning west at the Soldiers' monument, one descends into the part of the town called "The Hollow." Here stands the historic "Glebe House," and the windows of its famous northeast room still look out across the Pomperaug valley meadows, as they did in the spring of the year 1783. It was then that ten of the Episcopal clergymen of Connecticut met in this room and elected the Rev. Samuel Seabury bishop of the state, and his name has gone down on their church records as the first bishop of the Episcopal church in America. This ancient building has been recently restored to the appearance it presented in former days, a caretaker is always ready to welcome visitors, and the "Glebe House" guest book contains the names of people from all over the world.

It is a fact that all the churches of the town stand on the west side of Main street. The Woodbury First Congregational is one of the oldest churches in New England; her high old pulpit cannot fail to impress one with its beauty and dignity of art. The Second Congregational, or North Church, is located about one half mile from Woodbury center in what is called North Woodbury. In this section is found the Methodist church, business blocks, and a postoffice. The Catholic church stands about half way between the two sections of the village. The Episcopal church (St. Paul's) is at the north end of the old cemetery.

DEPOT OF SUPPLIES DURING THE REVOLUTION

It is interesting to know that the Hitchcock block, one of the centers of business activity today, was in the days of the Revolutionary war a depot of supplies from this valley to the American army. Opposite this block, on the east side of Main street, still stands the old home of William Cothren, the historian. In the year 1854 he published his history of the town of Woodbury, and with the passing of the years it ever becomes more valuable because of its detailed account of the transactions and various doings of the town's forefathers.

It is to be noted that out from old Woodbury have gone men and women destined to become eminent in war and peace, and ever the noblest and best of them have been proud of the fact that their ancestors originated in that small town nestling between the hills in the valley of the Pomperaug.

The quaint language of the Indian recommendation, when they were negotiating the sale of land in and around the present site of Woodbury, still holds its appeal. They described the valley as "a goodly place for many smokes of the white man."

From the Lure of the Litchfield Hills. Ida Norton Munson.

The Glebe House

The Glebe House

Among the early settlers attracted to the new Republic of Connecticut and our beautiful valley were those who cherished a deep attachment to the church of England.

On Grassy Hill, between the center of Roxbury and Transylvania and overlooking the Pomperaug Valley a pretty church was built. The first Episcopal church in Ancient Woodbury. The parish was organized in 1740 and included about forty families. Rev. Thomas Davies, missionary of the Gospel in Foreign Parts was the rector. The foundation of some of the homes could be seen, years ago, south of the Shelton farm.

In 1771, Rev. John Rutgers Marshall, a graduate of King's College, was ordained by the Bishop of London "to the ministry at Woodbury." A glebe, "a tract of land for parish purposes," was purchased in the center of Woodbury and a fine colonial home built.

During the Revolution, religious freedom, a principle in the constitution of the colonists, had not become fully established. The loyalist clergyman who occupied the Glebe House mysteriously disappeared during the week, then came to the church each Sunday and conducted the religious services, for arrests were not lawful on that day. For a long time his place of concealment was unknown. In many of the earliest houses was a secluded room for protection. The only entrance to this retired place in the Glebe House was through an opening underneath the front stairway, hidden by a sliding panel and screened by household furniture. Here was the place of refuge.

A complete organization of the Episcopal church of America was considered important. A voluntary convention of clergymen met in the north east room of the Glebe House and on March 25, 1783, Rev.

Samuel Seabury was elected a Bishop. His eminent abilities constituted him a most prominent clergyman of his day. On November 14, 1784 at Aberdeen, Scotland, Rev. Samuel Seabury was consecrated a Bishop, and returned to America "to become the apostle of the New World." The first Bishop of the Episcopal church of America.

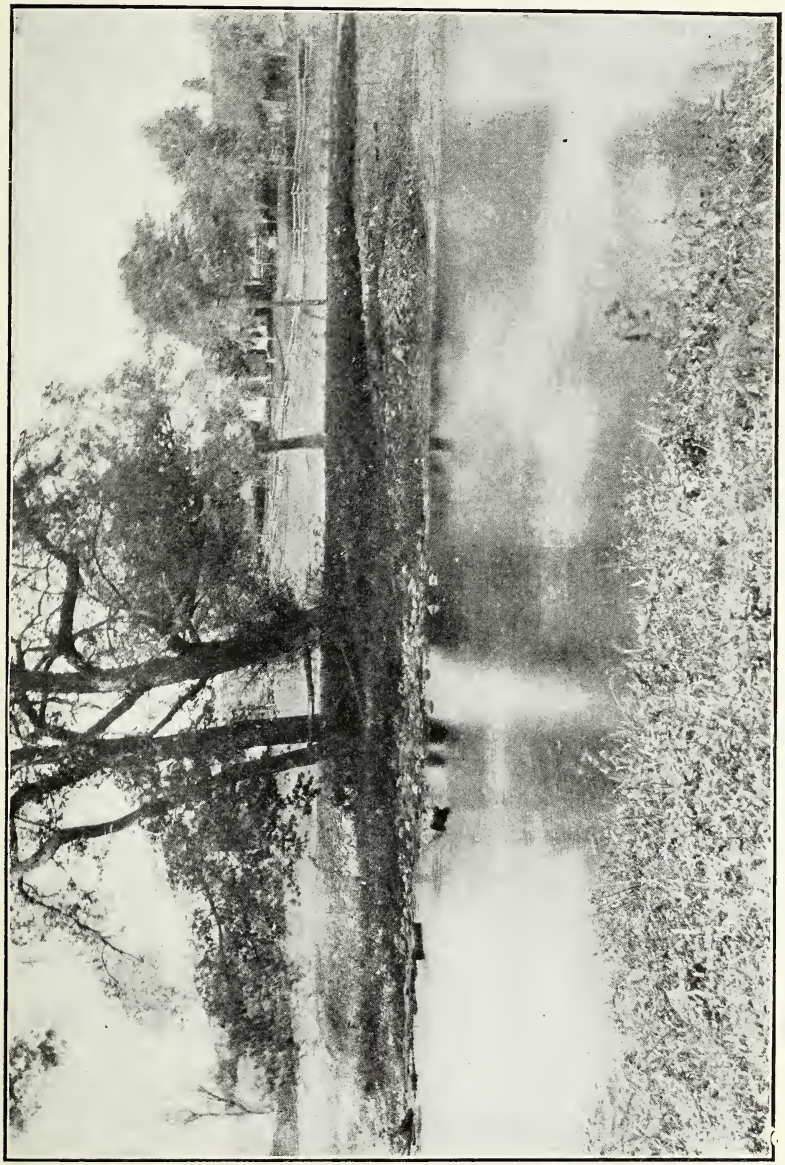
Early in the history of the Glebe House the place was sold and with the funds a cottage was built on Main Street for the owner, Rev. John Rutgers Marshall, the foundation of St. Paul's Church was laid and some of the superstructure completed. During the passing years leading families of Woodbury have, at different times resided in the Glebe House always esteeming the honor of its sacred associations and regardful of its care. The Association for the Aged and Infirm Clergymen and their families appreciated the fine home it afforded them. Later the Glebe House was given to Bishop Williams and became the property of the Diocese of Connecticut.

Desiring a restoration of their important religious shrine, a Glebe Association was formed of leading Episcopalians from all parts of the country. The ancient house has been thoroughly and beautifully restored, with everything done to make sure its preservation. The formal opening of the Glebe House after the restoration took place with impressive ceremonies in 1925, and was attended by clergymen from all parts of the State. An interesting feature of the program was the dedication of a tablet in St. Paul's church to the memory of Rev. John Rutgers Marshall, "Founder and first Rector of this Church and who figured largely in securing the Episcopacy for the American Church."

On November 14, 1927 a celebration of the 143rd anniversary of the consecration of Bishop Samuel Seabury was held in St. Paul's church. Woodbury was honored by the presence of Right Reverend Dr. F. L. Deane, Bishop of Aberdeen, Rev. H. Erskine Hill, Provost of the Aberdeen Cathedral,, Rev. Chauncey Brewster, Bishop of Connecticut, Rev. E. Campion Acheson, Coadjutor of Connecticut, Rev. G. T. Linsley, Secretary, Rev. William A. Beardsley, Vice President of the Seabury Society for the preservation of the Glebe House, and many other dignitaries of the Connecticut Diocese.

Plans are being considered for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the election of Bishop Samuel Seabury on March 25, 1933.

JULIA MINOR STRONG



The Pomperaug River at Terrill's Meadows

Scenic Woodbury

Meriden Mountain to the Catskills; seventy miles in a single sweep from east to west; the horizon in a complete circle on all sides; four distinct ranges of hills to the south and west, three to the north and east, and the Pomperaug Valley in winding curves. Along the second ridge to the north a cluster of houses and the white spire of a church marks the village of Bethlehem; far off on the other sides a faint line of smoke against the dark background of trees indicates the railroad to New Milford. In front an old stone wall runs down the hillside over toward the yellow field of oats on the opposite side of the rise. The hay on some of the meadows has been cut, others are still unmowed. Here and there a patch of potatoes or a piece of corn testify the industry of the occupants of the farm-houses along the road. A crow flaps slowly over the valley, a chipmunk darts along a rail on the old stone wall, while the whistle of a quail comes faintly from a distance. In the pasture cattle are grazing or peacefully chewing their cud. The scene is one of rest and quiet. Such is the view from Painter Hill near the outskirts of the town of Woodbury.

East Meadow Brook Falls

Another unusual scenic spot is the Indian camping ground, now known as East Meadow Brook Falls. Here a narrow never-failing stream has gradually cut its way through the granite bed rock, forming occasional "pot holes" and deep pools, until it plunges over an abrupt

ledge and then spreads out through an open meadow. Adjacent to the falls is a grove of tall mature pine trees which cast a never-failing shade, making a cool resting place even on the hottest days of summer. In earlier days this was the site of a Pootatuck Indian village, and the first deeds of Woodbury have among others, the names of Poquanow and Punnahan from whom the land was purchased. Stone arrowheads are often found when the fields near the falls are ploughed. No commercialization of the spot has been made and it is still possible to sit on the same rocks and pine needle banks by the falls as did the native red man three hundred years ago. The place is readily accessible from the Bethlehem road, near the residence of the late Frank B. Peck.

Still father to the north of Woodbury is Nonnewaug Falls, equally rich in Indian lore and tradition. These falls derive their name from Chief Nonnewaug who was buried nearby and whose memory has been honored by a bronze tablet erected by a lodge of the fraternal order of Red Men. In another section is Castle Rock, a crag rising abruptly above the Pomperaug River, and notable as an Indian signal fire spot.

WOODBURY BACK ROADS

For the lover of nature there is keen enjoyment in leaving the well-traveled state highway and browsing hither and yon on country back roads in the summer and early fall. For those of an older generation who seek relaxation and rest from the more mature responsibilities of life, this affords genuine pleasure.

The recent grant by the State of $17,500 to each of the Connecticut towns will be appreciated by students of nature as well as others. While there is many a fine view from the state roads the improvement of rural roads resulting from this additional resource will make still more accessible secluded spots in remote localities. By a well planned program and the utilization of natural resources Woodbury's back roads have already been put into good condition at a low cost. The town has an abundant supply of high grade gravel and this has been spread on the roads thick enough to eliminate most of the spring mud and furnish a good surface. One direct result has been the purchase of many outlying farms for summer residences.

One favorite route is to turn off the Woodbury-Waterbury road by the brick powerhouse at the top of Sherman Hill, continue north along the crest of the ridge until near the residence of Charles F. Kenworthy and thence through White Deer Rocks to the headwaters of Lake Quassapaug and then south past the Chase and Whittemore properties, joining the main road again at Tranquility. The graceful swans on the lake at the edge of the woods, a bit of rail fence, the sweep of the ox-bow turn, the rugged ledges among the "Rocks," and along toward evening perhaps an occasional woodchuck in the fields or a startled rabbit crashing into the underbrush, all turn the mind back toward youthful days and memories of the countryside.

On the opposite side of the town others like to turn off at the Pine Tree near the Woodbury-Roxbury line and go directly up to the old Welton place on Grassy Hill and then continue on across Good Hill to the Dooley farm on Painter Hill. The panorama of the lower part of the Pomperaug Valley affords what many consider the most complete view of the town. For those who have hunted the section a flood of memories are revived. "Over on that sidehill near the edge of the swamp, we started six rabbits in one afternoon; another time just beyond that cartpath we saw a fox in the laurels. Later while we were eating our lunch by the whitewood, three grays came out of a hole in that chestnut tree." The road is narrow and winding, the turns are sharp, and at times bushes slap against the windshield, but it is nature—real

nature—and rest. The voices of the hills are sweet music to those who love to listen to their call.

After all what makes a town is the attitude of the people who are its inhabitants. Like granite of the native hillsides, New England people "wear well" and Litchfield County is no exception. Woodbury's advances have been made through united effort, and each individual looks back with satisfaction on his part toward aiding the progress of the community. Rich in traditions of perseverance and sacrifice from the ancestors of the past, the spirit of co-operation still dwells among the hills, guiding and directing so that the town may continue a worthy place in which to live.

From Lure of the Litchfield Hills.

By Frank Ward Strong

The Tower in Orenaug Park

The Willis Lambert House

Weekeepeemee

Weekeepeemee from whom this hamlet was named was one of three chieftains who deeded and conveyed this princely domain of one hundred eighty thousand acres to the white settlers.

This fertile valley was contained in the first purchase of land on April 26, 1673, from Tautannimo, Sachem of Paugasset which included all the territory between the Pomperaug, Shepaug, and the Pootatuck or Housatonic rivers. This transaction was ratified in the deed to Lieutenant Joseph Judson on September 9, 1661 by Agiomp, Sachem of the Pootatuck Indians of the Pomperaug Valley. The well defined boundary Wolf Pitt Hill contained a large cavern, at that time the abode of many wild beasts.

A second deed on July 14, 1673 from Yohcomge and Avomockomge Sagamores of the Pootatuck Indians "engage to sell to Mr. Sherman, Lieutenant Joseph Judson and Mr. John Minor Ye land above said, and accepted in compensation articles of homespun clothing and ammunition." This deed was signed by Wecuppemee and witnessed by Zechariah Walker.

RESTING PLACE OF WEEKEEPEEMEE

Like Moses of old the date of his death and burial place are almost unknown. Tradition points to a knoll on the farm of Willis Lambert, now the property of Edward Trowbridge. This was near to the trail as it wound down the valley from Bantam Lake to the salt water. As each Indian passed he placed a stone on the grave. To quote a statement by Miss Elizabeth Bull when consulted by newspaper correspondents in regard to the traditions of the Indians said: "the best information she could impart was that they were all dead."

EARLY SETTLERS

Prominent among the early residents were the families of Judsons, Allens, Bishops and Pierces.

DESCENDANTS OF JOHN JUDSON

Captain James Judson, grandson of John Judson one of the signers of the "Fundamental Articles" for the settlement of Woodbury lived in a house which stood on the site of the residence of Frank Winton. His youngest son Herbert Judson was a General in the Mexican War in the battle of San Jacinto.

Captain Elnathan Judson grandson of John Judson married Rebecca Minor grand daughter of Captain John Minor; lived in the only fortified house in the neighborhood which stood on the site of the one owned by Frederick Thompson. Rev. Ephraim Judson his eldest son, was graduated at Yale College in 1763 and was first settled as a preacher at Norwich, Conn. Eighteen years later he was the minister at Taunton, Massachusetts. He was also a chaplain in the Revolutionary army. He was considered a learned divine, acute logician and evangelical preacher. By his many friends he was esteemed "a wise counsellor and an active peacemaker."

Rev. Adoniram Judson, youngest son of Captain Elnathan Judson and father of Rev. Adoniram Judson, the first missionary to Burmah, was born in Weekeepeeme, in a colonial home which stood not far from the Weekeepeemee school house. The building was removed in 1888. A group of lilacs marks the site of the house. Rev. Edward Judson son of Rev. Adoniram Judson, the missionary, was pastor of the memorial church to his father located in Washington Square, New York City.

DECENDANTS OF ASA JUDSON

FOUNDER OF THE WESTERN RESERVE COLLEGE

The house which stands on the site of the fortified house of Weekeepeemee was built by Asa Judson whose wife was Sarah daughter of Deacon Matthew Minor. Their son, Rev. Everton Judson, was graduated from the Yale Theological Seminary in 1826, and in the summer of 1829 was ordained in Woodbury by the Litchfield South Consociation to be a missionary to the Home Missionary Society. He was a gifted and eloquent preacher and founder of the Western Reserve College.

BUILDER OF A SHIP CANAL

Rev. Everton Judson was a projector and instrumental in building the ship canal from Lake Erie to Milan, Ohio and was also interested in grain elevators establishing several along the Canal. To the building of the Lake Shore Railroad he gave valuable aid. He died at Milan, Ohio, August 10, 1848. Benjamin Bartlett Judson his brother was a talented preacher in the Western Reserve.

AUTHOR OF THE FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOL QUESTION BOOKS

Deacon Benjamin Judson married Esther daughter of Deacon Seth Minor. Their son Rev. Albert Judson was graduated at Yale College continuing his studies in New York City. On becoming associated with the work of the Sunday School Union he was impressed with the need of a text book for Sunday School instruction and was the author of the first Question Book for Sunday Schools which gave a great impetus to the cause.

EARLY INDUSTRIES

Much of the timber used in the construction of the first houses of Weekeepeemee was prepared at the saw mill at the falls of West Carmel Hill brook.

Near the paper mill bridge can be seen traces of the raceway of the mill for finishing cloth which was established by the Nichols family.

Deacon Reuben Hotchkiss constructed a building for the manufacture of felt cloth which was afterward converted into a paper factory by Anson Knox and successfully operated by William and James Thompson. About four hundred tons of straw and three hundred cords of wood were consumed annually in this factory.

GRAIN AND FLOUR MILLS

Judah Baldwin built and operated the first factory in Weekeepeemee for milling grain. He was an ardent temperance worker and a member of the Youth's Temperance Society of Woodbury. His successor was Hubbell Downs, afterward proprietor of Mapleton in North Woodbury. More recent owners were Grandison Beardsley, Samuel Castle of Bridgeport and Czar Winton, the last proprietor being William Langdon. The building burned in 1921. In the gorge above the Weekeepeemee bridge a joint stock company built a flour mill constructed and operated by Ira Bishop. The motive power was a breastwheel. A part of the construction was used later in the Hotchkissville Woolen Factory.

Frederick Peck and his sons Isaac and Frederick constructed a building for the manufacture of matches. Other industries were a tannery, a shop for making wooden ware and a saw mill built by Judah Baldwin and conducted later by Charles Millard and son and by Walter White.

A general country store and double house was built by Edson Camp who was succeeded by Wheeler, Heman Botsford and the Winton Brothers.

A black smith shop stood at the intersection of the Carmel Hill and Bethlehem roads.

Original Yankee ingenuity, perseverance, industry and an indomitable will accomplished much for the neighborhood. They toiled in the field, labored in the mine, they reared halls of learning in days past.

Of the original settlers only one descendant remains. Their homes and lands are occupied by those who were once subjects of principalities kingdoms and empires. Their habits and customs have changed. The slow moving ox and the horse and tallow dip have been supplanted by the rapid automobile, the swiftly moving truck and the electric light. Where the smoke of the Weekeepeemee council fire ascended is now the path of the swift aerial Boston Express.

Mrs. Margaret Judson Peck said, "I remember Rev. Adoniram Judson and his son the missionary coming to the home of my father Nelson Judson for a visit when I was about ten years old."

FANNIE TROWBRIDGE

The Samuel Minor House

Nonnewaug - Minortown

When our forefathers journeyed to the Pomperaug Valley in the spring of 1673, with other leading spirits was Captain John Minor who settled near where William Minor now resides.

NONNEWAUG PURCHASE

In 1700 the inhabitants of Woodbury becoming numerous a fourth purchase of land was made from the tribe of Indians called Nonnewaug. The deed says the sale was made "For valid considerations moving thereto, besides the desire of a friendly correspondency with ye English inhabitants of Woodbury and was signed by eight Sagamors and the Sachem Nunnewake in behalf of himself and all Pootatuck Indians."

These Indians lived in the valley of the East Sprain or Nonnewaug river, the eastern boundary being Waterbury on the south and north by inhabitants of Woodbury and west by land owned by the Indians. The deed says "the parcel of land be it more or less by estimation six square miles." This tribe was peaceful being under their Sachem Nonnewaug. Tradition says he was a powerfully built Indian standing over six feet high, of good features, light skin, and of a particularly honorable character.

DEPARTURE OF SACHEM NONNEWAUG

Doubtless the Sachem Nonnewaug was attracted by the barter of the white man also realizing that they must make room for the increasing population; not however anticipating what this signified, to give up their right to hunt and fish at will, on lands occupied by them for many years. Sachem Nonnewaug moved farther and farther westward from the beloved trout streams and the musical falls, where

he was wont to meditate; their Indian methods of trapping were interfered with and the tribe became poorer and poorer. The beautiful valley he loved, the place of his own and his father's birth. Could he lead his people away? No! And so they found him at the foot of Nonnewaug Falls. A marble slab marks his resting place.

In the meadow where the Falls brook courses through was the Indian burying ground, mounds being visible years ago. Arrow heads and Indian relics are found in the soil of Minortown as it is cultivated. The tribe is extinct having gone to join the spirit of the Indian chief.

HOUSES OF THE EARLY SETTLERS

Foremost of the early settlers in Nonnewaug were the Minors, Judsons and Atwoods. Samuel Minor Sr. in direct line from Captain John Minor was an extensive landowner, having in his possession at one time all the land on each side of the Nonnewaug river from above the Falls to the crossing of the Indian trail near the North Woodbury bridge. He built the colonial house north of the writer's residence. Some alterations but much of the original construction remains.

SAMUEL MINOR TAVERN

In those days many private houses were taverns because of the owner's ability and willingness to care for travellers. Samuel Minor's house was such a place. The people had not heard of the Volstead Act. A bar extended across the south room which contained a large fire place filled with crackling wood. All the good old fashioned eatables such as dried apple pies sweetened with molasses, rye coffee which was made from rye crust and rye head, home made cheese and home cured meats were some of the attractions of the Minor Tavern.

HOMES OF THE DESCENDANTS OF SAMUEL MINOR

Anthony and Ephraim Minor were sons of Samuel Minor and descendants of Captain John Minor. On his inherited land Ephraim Minor built the house south of his homestead for his son Charles Minor Sr. the residence now occupied by L. H. Thompson. Charles Minor Sr. returned to the old homestead to care for his parents. This property descended to Charles D. Minor. Anthony Minor's sons, Deacon Truman and Horace Minor were given large acreage. Deacon Truman Minor built the house now used as a town farm, bringing his bride, Harriet Curtiss from Good Hill.

Truman Minor his son built a fine residence directly south. His daughter Edith J. Minor was an instructor for many years in the schools of the Town and the Mitchell School. Arthur Truman Minor son of Truman Minor, Jr., is a leading merchant in the Town of Bethlehem. Anthony Minor becoming aged, Deacon Truman Minor sold his farm to Chauncey Atwood. Horace Minor son of Anthony Minor built the house occupied by Mrs. Albert Atwood. Adam Minor who lived to a great age built the first saw and grist mill in Minortown on the site of the present mill. He served in the French and Indian War in 1755.

HOMES OF THE DESCENDANTS OF SOLOMON MINOR

On the brow of the hill overlooking the valley was the homestead of Solomon Minor; a Revolutionary soldier and grandson of Captain John Minor. Solomon Benedict Minor son of Solomon Minor resided in Waterbury, where he was Town Clerk many years and held other

offices of public trust. Solomon C. Minor his son was graduated at Yale College and the University of New York and was a practicing physician in New York and a deacon in the church. Julia A. Minor daughter of Solomon B. Minor married Nathanial Minor Strong of Woodbury and edited "Town and People" a book of Woodbury. Emily T. Minor daughter of Solomon B. Minor was graduated at Mt. Holyoke College, was a missionary nine years in New York City and for thirty seven years in India. Mary Root Minor her sister resided with Dr. S. C. Minor.

David Stiles Minor remained at the homestead of Solomon Minor and was considered a person of exceptional goodness.

South of the homestead sequestered in the valley was the home of Nathaniel Minor son of Solomon Minor. He was one of the first Deacons of the North Church and held that office during forty years. His daughter Mary married Nathaniel Lambert Strong who bought the farm. Their son Nathaniel Minor Strong established the North Woodbury drug store, was chorister of the First Congregational Church thirty years, a singer in the choir fifty years and Supervisor of music in the public schools of Woodbury. Frank W. Strong his son is a graduate of Williams College and Principal for sixteen years of the Durham High School, Durham, Connecticut.

As we rise from the valley the highway of Minortown, which is the Indian trail from the Naugatuck to the Housatonic River leads along a precipitious ledge of rocks with a gorge below.

THE LEATHER MAN

Within the caverns of this ledge was the cave of the Leather Man, a resting place on his continuous journey from town to town. Clad in a suit of leather made by himself and a cap of the same, carrying a bag made of leather over his shoulder, conversing with no one he kept steadily on his solitary way, year after year, sustained by kind friends along the route. Within his cave was a rude fire place always kept clean and ready for use. Hidden away in the nooks and crannies of the rock and carefully covered with leaves were needed utensils. A large flat stone served as a pillow and around it were strewn hemlock boughs for his bed. Without were a great quantity of wood ashes and embers, showing he had tenanted this secluded hut for many years. In the summer of 1885 some friends visited him in his cave on a ridge near Lake Saltonstall. They awaited his coming, screened by protecting hemlocks. He entered the cave looked around and listened, and after a few moments of rest took from one side under his coat an axe and from the other side of the handle, put them together and began to chop the decayed wood for his fire. The friends then came out from under the ambush. After the first surprise he greeted them heartily, responding to the request to sit beside them, while a transfer of his rugged features was made. He gave his age as "sixty-eight" and his years of travel as "twenty-seven." From a leather wallet hidden in the crevice of the rock the Leather Man showed a series of papers recording his journeys: another package revealed a French prayer book with rosary and crucifix over which he bowed reverentially. "Leaving him to his meditations," the writer said, "we groped our way to the hemlocks at the head of the Lake, his firelight a mere spark glimmering through the trees way up on the ridge." A lonely wanderer.

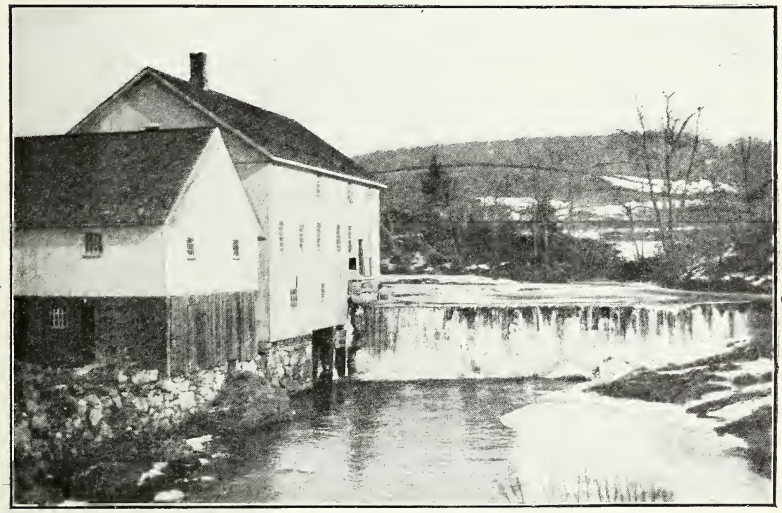
Emerging from a shadowy archway of leaves into the sunlight we look upon a broad valley and find more houses on the next elevation. Here was the farm of Captain Jesse Minor, son of Solomon Minor. In the nearby fields soldiers were trained by him. His sons, Cornelius J. and Solomon Minor had fine farms on each side of the Benjamin Franklin Post Road to Litchfield.

HOMES OF THE DESCENDANTS OF CAPTAIN JESSE MINOR

Nancy, daughter of Captain Jesse Minor, married Leman Sherman, the town clerk of Woodbury. His residence, which he built, is now the parsonage of the North Church. He also constructed the building now occupied by L. C. Dawson, merchant of North Woodbury. Sarah, daughter of Leman Sherman, married David Meloy, an architect of Waterbury and her sister Fannie married James Ells, a merchant of Waterbury. Jesse, son of Solomon Minor, was a member of a banking house in Waterbury during his lifetime. Sarah Judson, great granddaughter of Captain Jesse Minor, was appointed a teacher of kindergarten near Bombay, India. She married Rev. Henry A. Kernen, an instructor in Sangli, India. After a few years they returned to America. where they are now living. We have now reached the border of North Woodbury.

With many families of the name of Minor, no wonder the name was changed from Lower Nonnewaug to Minortown.

It was a prosperous section with well cultivated farms. Other portions of land were sold and other houses built. However, the neighbors were related by marriage or blood and Minortown was more like a family of relatives than separate individual residents. When Sunday arrived all went to church and an all-day service, too. Evenings rarely found a family alone. Social intercourse of games and refreshments was the order. Housewives went to the neighbors for old-fashioned suppers, not the modern five o'clock tea.



Mills of Minortown

The Minortown mill was a busy place. Grain was ground, logs were sawed, salt washed and cider made. Andrew Hard's four horse team transported the grain from Watertown. A post office was granted and a stage coach brought New York papers received at noon.

SOCIAL LIFE

Farmers not enjoying social life—who can say it! Truman Minor has taken his oxen, arranged an ox sled with seats and robes and soapstones and driven laughing happy people to Bethlehem to attend social gatherings on many a cold winter night.

Minortown was a prosperous hamlet. The stage coach must get through even if heavy snows blocked the road. Therefore, each farmer took his ox sled loaded down with boys and girls and "broke a path" for the stage coach and other travel. The men and women of that day were of sterling caliber and their enterprise has doubtless made life easier for the next generation.

Of the original inhabitants few remain. Many descendants of the Minor family are living in various parts of the United States. The Indian trails have become state roads, the ox sled the sedan with light and heat. Time has wrought many changes. Quoting from General Albert Pike's poem:—

The shores of life are shifting
    Every year
Old places changing fret us
    Every year
And the morning star climbs higher
    Every year
Earth's hold on us grows lighter
    Every year
And the dawn immortal brighter
    Every year
History repeats itself. We, too, are
    Making history.

EDITH J. MINOR

Orenaug Rocks

(Legend)

Eastward from the fair, white village,
High above its flaming gardens,
And its ghostly drifts in winter
Loom the silent rocks of Orenaug—
Rocks that form a giant hilltop,
Where the pine trees, sighing, sighing,
Gently drop their slender needles,
So a carpet lies beneath them—
Slippery smooth, with mossy lining,
For the cliffs a fitting mantle.

They have felt the breath of ages;
Dumbly watched unnumbered dawnings,
Myriad winds have touched their faces;
Sun and storm have marked their passage.
From this place where beat the hawk's wings,
They may gaze upon the Pomperaug
Flowing through its valley cradle,
Named from him who led his tribesmen
Through weird dances in the moonlight,
Or on wild and bloody warpath.

Listen to the Indian legend
Staged when red men roamed the hillsides;
When each Sabbath came the white men
From the valley to old Orenaug,
There to pray and praise together,
In a natural amphitheater,
Lying high between the cliff sides.
On the rocks adjacent, sentries
Kept a watch for foes in ambush—
Kept their lookout while the others
Listened to the faithful preacher,
Speaking from a rude, stone pulpit.

Thus it was that Warramaukeag—
Sachem of the tribe of Pootatuck—
Manly, virtuous, friend of white man
Came to Bethel Rock to listen;
Frequented the pastor's study,
Learned to read the pale face's Bible;
And, with ardor, pure and simple,
Came to love the pale faced maiden,
Staying at the village parsonage;
Madly sought for her affection,
Proffered gifts to gain her favor—
Gifts that brought her kind refusal.

In the valley of the Pomperaug,
Stood the cabin he had fashioned;
Neat it was and built for comfort,
Better than most early structures.
Too, the noble Warramaukeag
Took the customs of the settlers.
Ate their food and spoke their language;
Yet, was right to love denied him—
He could but adore in silence.
So the sachem, Warramaukeag,
Though he cherished naught of anger,
Went no longer to the parsonage.

Then upon an eve in summer.
Slowly up the rocks of Orenaug,
O'er the slippery needle footpath,
Climbed the lovely, pious maiden.
On old Bethel Rock she rested,
There to hold her sweet devotions.

Came a shadow hovering near her,
So she turned with frightened outcry;
Saw the form of Warramaukeag,
Started backward in her terror—

Thus he saw her slipping—falling—
Saw the maid with silver tresses
Lying broken, crushed and bleeding
On the hard, gray rocks below him.

Swifter than a deer he reached her,
Smoothed her clothing, kissed her forehead;
Swift again he gained the summit,
Ere he leaped to death beside her.

Thus is told the Indian legend
Where today a tower of iron
Tops the silent rocks of Orenaug—
Rocks that keep their age old secrets—
Rocks that know unnumbered sunsets—
Waiting—while like wings man passes.

Ida Norton Munson

East Side

East of Woodbury's Main Street, lying along the edge of the White Deer Rocks for about two miles is what was once known as the Cat Swamp district of Woodbury. Unlike other of the outside districts, this peaceful little place was not named after an Indian chief, but from a tract of land abounding in game, making the region a refuge for many wild animals. This section of Woodbury is near to the route constructed by General LaFayette for the transportation of his army and their supplies when they passed through Woodbury to join General Washington in the siege of Yorktown, and is called the White Deer Rock road from the many beautiful white deer which came to the borders of Lake Quassapaug. "The Oxbow" is one of the famous curves in this shorter and more direct course on the line of their inland march.

EARLY HOMES

Although little remains to show where the original inhabitants (the Indians) lived, it is known that an Indian family lived just south of the W. J. Clark farm. An indentation in the ground marks the place. Indian relics are found about the farm.

The first New England homes were established about the time of the Revolution by Clark, Somers, Tomlinson, Bacon and Peck. Joseph Brothwell from East Side, was a soldier in the War of the Revolution. Descendants of some of these families are now living in the same houses.

INDUSTRIES

In the early days, besides clearing land and cultivating farms, the inhabitants pursued some trade or profession. In this locality was a shop where the business of making blinds was conducted. South of the school house was a tannery and in the northern part a saw mill.

The school house which has been purchased by a physician from Waterbury and has been placed upon the foundation of one of the first homes will be used in the construction of a summer residence. Twenty years have passed since sessions were held in the school building but the old school house dances will linger long in the memory of those who attended.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING

The first electric light that shone in Woodbury was produced from water power found in this region. The little lake is now owned by Mr. Charles Kenworthy and adds to the fine home which he has recently built. On the shore of this lake is a mound where the Indians once held target practice, countless arrowheads have been found in the past.

EMINENT PEOPLE

East Side is proud to claim Mr. Charles Curtiss who for twenty-five years has held the office of selectman and Mr. William J. Clark prominent in town affairs and politics also Acting School Visitor. The early education of Homer Partree now a physician in Torrington and of Harold Walker a professor in New Jersey was obtained in East Side also of his sister Miss Lillian Walker to whom a beautiful bronze medal was awarded by the City of Rheims, France, for conspicuous service

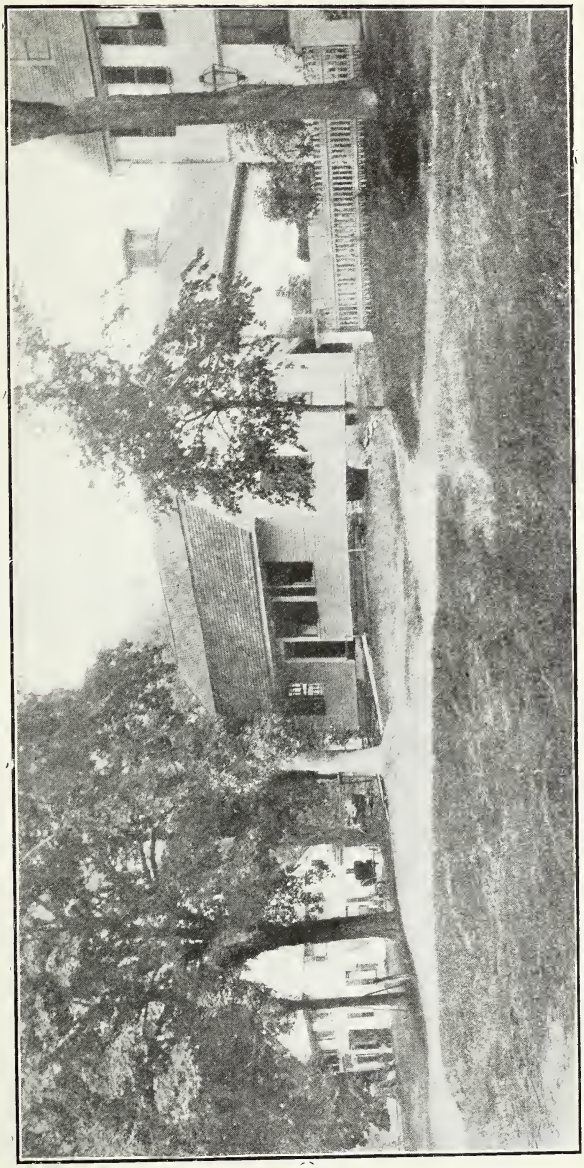
during the war and reconstruction periods. In 1915 Lillian Walker graduated from Smith College, then became an instructor in French. In June 1918 she entered the war service. Because of a special fitness in organizing relief work for the orphan children of France, she was appointed director of the work with headquarters at Paris, and assistant director of all France. The foyer at Rheims was one of the largest she organized. During 1920 she had charge of 5,000 children at Camiers. Today the work which she established is making many children happy in France. The commander of the Paris post of the American Legion said "No American girl in war work, ever understood the French people better than Miss Walker did, or was better loved by them. Her loss is mourned in many homes in France." While on a vacation at her home in East Side, Woodbury, an accident caused her death. The city of Rheims sent a bronze plaque for a memorial bearing the figure of a child holding a wreath of flowers and the French inscription, "With all our hearts forever."

Mr. S. C. Tomlinson, who has served our bank for thirty years, now Judge of Probate enjoys many summers on his farm. East Side also claims a deacon of the church, an attorney and a faithful teacher in the Mitchell High School.

And what would Waterbury do without the forty cans of milk produced daily by the hustling farmers and their tested blooded stock? Who does not know Jack Eqhart who builds stone foundations and chimneys all about town. Miss Ruth Griswold the trained nurse who can bring comfort to so many. Summer residents are finding East Side a pleasant place for a home.

The number of fine young men and women who are in college or business life will prove to be all that can be desired.

EDITH C. GOODSELL



The Hollow Store

The Hollow

Approaching this lovely region in the center of Woodbury we are impressed with the encircling ranges of forest covered hills. About midway winds the Pomperaug River sometimes hidden by trees and shrubs along the banks then emerging into broad and deep waters. At the south, rises a huge granite cliff of rock at whose base rests the Chieftain Pomperaug while the river which bears his name rolling ceaselessly by, chants his requiem.

Bordering on the river a large grant of land and special privileges were given to establish the leading industries of the town—the milling of grain and the preparation of lumber. Along this route of travel business enterprises were located and "The Hollow" was the center of industry.

On the north side of the highway was the Hollow Store conducted by David S. Bull, in whose place of business a fine stock of general merchandise and Yankee notions was carried. A bank in charge of Benjamin Fabrique was connected with the store and was the nucleus of the present Woodbury Bank now situated on Main Street.

A thriving business in tin ware was under the management of Sanford and Young. Articles such as cannisters, lanterns, tin horns and candlemolds were made. The japanning room finished the ware. A well organized and equipped fleet of peddler carts successfully disposed of the merchandise. Their routes were north to Canada, west to Buffalo, south to Florida and east to the Atlantic coast.

George B. Lewis was the next owner and proprietor of the business. He was succeeded by Floyd F. Hitchcock who transferred the location of the business and his place of residence to Main Street in 1878 where in Hitchcock's block an extensive business in hardware, plumbing and electrical work has been maintained during the successive years.

A building stood on the opposite side of the street from The Hollow Store where silver spoons and cutlery were manufactured. Heman Botsford conducted a store for the sale of the ware.

On the plateau to the west was the homestead of Captain John Minor, the pioneer settler, signer of the "Fundamental Articles agreed upon to "ye settlement of a plantation at Pomperague" and of the model constitution which contained all the foundation principles of justice and religious freedom. As interpreter, all Indian deeds were signed in his presence; a member of the General Assembly twenty years, Town Clerk thirty years, surveyor of lands, Captain of the Militia, deacon in the church and spoken of as "A good man in all difficult undertakings." His house stood opposite to the fortress of the Indian Chieftain slightly elevated from the bank of the river and was palisaded. The original title to the land has never passed from the family.

Descendants of Captain John Minor and his grandson Deacon Matthew Minor occupy fine homes on this beautiful location.

GRACE A. HEINZE

A Few Facts of West Side History

History states that the settlement of Woodbury was the result of differences in opinions among the inhabitants of Stratford, and was "ushered in by thunderings and lightnings and earthquakes ecclesiastical." Because of such dissentions Rev. Zachariah Walker of Stratford with his friendly parishioners was granted the right to settle the wilderness of the Pomperaug or what is now called Woodbury. Not only the General Court, but the Indian proprietors had given them authority to enter and possess the land. In the spring of 1673 the company including Samuel Sherman, William Curtiss, Joseph Judson and Capt. John Minor, the Indian interpreter, arrived on Good Hill, the name being selected by them. I mention this event because Woodbury's first settlers came through West Side.

They encamped on Good Hill that first night and it is related that Deacon John Minor fell on his knees leading in prayer that little band of hardy adventurers, invoking Heaven's blessing upon their enterprise and praying that their posterity might be an upright and godly people to the latest generation. Cothren states that so far as Deacon Minor's posterity is concerned, his prayers seem to have been answered, for it has never since been without a deacon in the family.

The next day they proceeded to the valley to examine their possessions. Much of the land had been divested of trees and undergrowth by the Indian custom of burning over the woods in autumn, and the natives had for many years raised their scant crops of corn and beans in the valley of the Pomperaug before the whites came.

I do not learn that any of this first company of settlers remained in West Side. But the Roots and Hurds who came a little later settled there. The old Root homestead was finally purchased by Frank Hollister. He bought it of the Homer Root estate, but after he and his wife died this old landmark burned.

In the year 1707 there were reports of Indian uprisings and the people of Woodbury set about the work of preparing defenses. They fortified several houses among them the one that stood on the site now occupied by Charles Anderson's house, the former Hurd place. In 1708 a body of Indians appeared in West Side and drove the people by their formidable appearance into the fortified houses. If their design was a hostile one, no doubt the watchfulness of the people and the strength of their fortifications warned them that it was better for them to depart which they accordingly did.

It is probable that Woodbury has had a specimen of everything that any part of the State has possessed. It has therefore had its witch. The name of this "veritable being" was Moll Cramer. She lived in Westside as late as 1753 and was the wife of Adam Cramer, a blacksmith. His shop is supposed to have been located at the forks of the old South Britain and Roxbury roads. This old road used to run south, west of what was formerly the Root land. About one half mile from the present road, the old road forks, one branch going over the hill to Roxbury, the other west side of the pond to South Britain. Farmers plowing the land there at the present time find the buried coal, proving beyond a doubt the one time existence of the shop.

Cothren says that the following facts were related to him by people in the Westside neighborhood and were believed by people well informed on other subjects.

"Adam Cramer, the blacksmith, lived with Moll, his wife, and kept her in good temper and spirits as long as he could. But whenever he was so unlucky as to fall under her ire everything went wrong with him. If he were shoeing a horse, no shoe, however well secured to the hoof, could withstand her influence. The shoe would loosen and fall off.

Her conduct finally became so outrageous that her husband, being a Christian man, and dependent upon the patronage of the public for his support, and being in danger of the suspicion of "holding familiarity with Satan" was obliged to drive her from his house. She took with her a little son and went to Good Hill where she constructed a cabin of poles and boards to shelter herself and the boy. She obtained a scanty living by begging from the much enraged neighborhood. No one dared to refuse her anything she asked for. If she asked for a piece of pork and it was denied a blight fell upon the man's swine and no wealth of meal and potatoes could ever fatten them. When Moll appeared abroad she was an object of dread and apprehension. None dared to offend her, and evidently all the misfortunes in the locality were laid to her."

It seems incredible that a people with the high ideals that our forefathers possessed should have harbored such superstition, but the belief in witchcraft was prevalent throughout New England at that time.

Some of the industries carried on in Westside in the past, should be of interest. Opposite the Cramer blacksmith shop at the fork of the old roads to South Britain and Roxbury once stood a silver smelter. South Great Hill, the name given to the land that slopes to the west of Hesky Meadow Pond, was said to have contained silver. About 1825 or 1826 Phineas Bradley operated a tannery. The ruins may now be seen just north of the Westside school house. The original school house was located about opposite W. H. Munson's home. When the larger school was built on the green the old building was moved and is now used as a barn.

One of the old land-marks on the north road was the David Porter place. It stood very close to the highway but has now been moved back, enlarged, and is owned by Mr. G. C. Sypher. Blacksmithing was once carried on at this Porter place.

Just north used to stand the old Hayes home. The site is now marked by a pine tree. North of the Hayes homestead was the house once owned by Joseph Nettleton, Mrs. David Porter's father. Walter Betts made harnesses in this house. Brooms were made at the Root home and when Watson Bunnel was a lad he used to help prepare the broom corn for the purpose. The best brooms sold for twenty-five cents; seconds, fifteen cents.

Joseph and George Capewell built the powder flask and shot pouch factory now known as the Allen mill, and at present owned by E. N. Hallock. The shot pouches were made by hand. About forty years ago Lewellyn Allen bought the building and afterward sold it to Benjamin Richards who also made novelties there. In 1901 the shop was burned and Mr. Allen built it up again. The building just south was a saw mill and soap factory and was built by George Drakeley, Sr.

Time was when crowds from the surrounding towns and country side congregated at the Westside Fair Grounds for the annual Fair and races. The house now owned by D. W. Glasser was moved from the opposite side of the road, south of the Stiles Russell place, to its present location, and that and the Fair grounds were owned by C. C. Mitchell. While speaking of moving houses, it might be of interest to state that the Hinman home on Grassy Hill was brought there by Elliot Hinman on ox teams from Harwinton. The moving consisted of many loads.

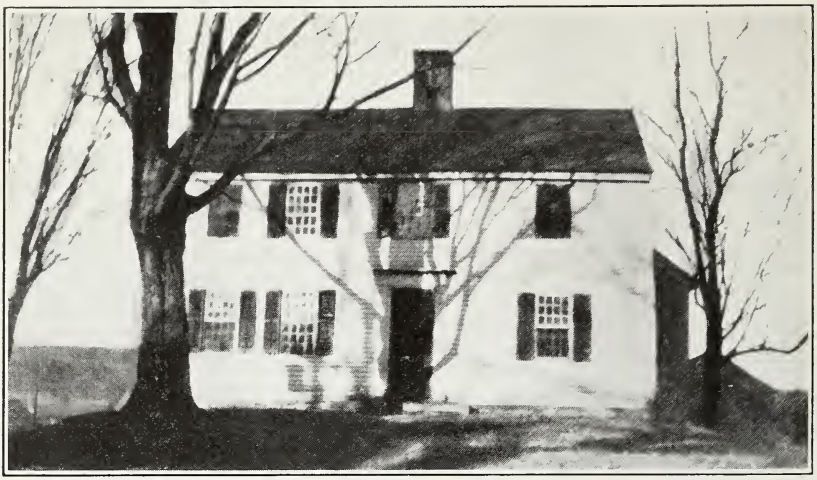
Many other old landmarks might be mentioned. Of the old Markham place that used to stand in what is now W. H. Munson's apple orchard on the old Roxbury road, nothing remains. This house was two stories and one-half high at the front but a child could easily climb from a chair on the roof at the back. Henry Curtiss built the place now owned by Samuel Pond, and Capt. John Curtiss the Wooden place. The building known as the Russell shop located north of the John Russell place now owned by Mr. Henderson was once the scene of activity. Sash chains and novelties were made there.

A word about Hesky Meadow Pond. Time was when it was Hesky Meadow and the hay was cut there by the farmers who owned the land. After the dam was built the water converted the meadow into a pond and the frog chorus was then organized.

We must mention the Old Leather Man who for years made his semi-annual visits to West Side. He was said to be of French origin and wore a suit of leather. He used to stop at the Capewell powder flask and shot pouch factory to pick up the discarded pieces of leather. He accepted food and tobacco in the neighborhood but refused to take money. He camped in the Bear Pit Wood's cave and always left his fuel ready for his next stop there.

These facts about Westside history have been gleaned from Cothren's history and also from talks with several of the older residents in the community.

IDA NORTON MUNSON



The Henry Benedict House

Early People of Pomperaug

The early people of Middle Quarter and Pomperaug would make an exceedingly interesting study. Preserved Strong who married Esther daughter of Rev. Anthony Stoddard had a son Uriel whose children Stoddard, Solomon, Eunice, Isaac and Seth lived in sight of one another and furnished those durable sterling qualities of Christian citizenship which have circled out over the land, nobody can tell how far. Some of that Preserved Strong and Esther Stoddard branch settled Dayton, Ohio.

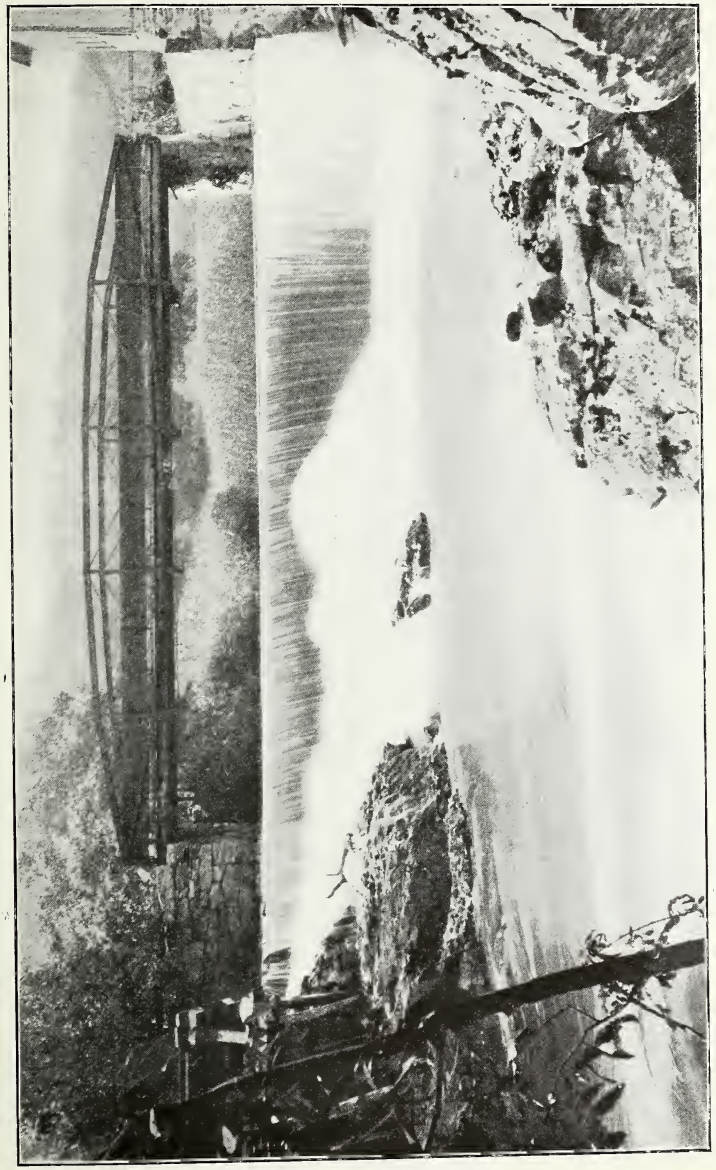
Aunt Esther, my Grandmother's sister went to Wakeman, Ohio, not in a covered wagon but in an ox team, with her were some of my Grandmother's family. They are all the blood of the Stoddards-Strongs our people. Directly through that line there is connection with Jonathan Edwards the theologian and President of Princeton and with President Dwight of Yale. Therefore how can be estimated those influences that emanated from the soil and sunshine of Middle Quarter.

There is a wonderful book from the Yale University Press, the journal of Margaret Van Horn Dwight, granddaughter of Jonathan Edward, which was kept by a young girl on her journey by wagon to New Connecticut, Ohio, in 1810.

We are living in radio waves but think of the forerunner of the radio waves, the spirit of influence of the early christian and patriotic waves, which were the very veriest of good men and women's lives, their religious spirit and patriotism.

We are of that stock, Woodbury.

RUTH B. SMITH



The Falls of the Pomperaug River

Pomperaug

INDUSTRIES OF POMPERAUG

The establishment of a grist mill in 1697 near the site of the Curtiss factory was considered an achievement as the previous one located east of the Deacon Eli Summer's home now the residence of Mrs. Charles Garlick when in complete running order could grind the enormous quantity of one bushel per day.

The new and up-to-date mill was located on this side of the Pomperaug river. The corn to grind was dumped in a hollow on the top of the knoll where L. W. Carrington's house now stands and fed to the mill stones through a shute. By the way the house now owned by Mrs. Carrington was bidden off at an auction by Mrs. William Dews for less than four hundred dollars.

CURTISS WOOLEN MILLS

From the grist mill it is a short step to the Curtiss Woolen Mills. These buildings were constructed about 1840 by Daniel Curtiss. Before the manufacture of woolen goods Mr. Curtiss conducted a German Silver business in the Hollow which he sold to Benjamin Curtiss who moved it to Pomperaug where German silver articles were made and agents sent out to sell the products. Employment was given to about fifty men. The Woolen Mills were destroyed three times by fire. After the second fire the third building was of brick. These bricks were made on the river meadows now owned by Chester Fowler and hauled to the mill in ox carts.

The Curtiss Mills employed about fifty people and manufactured a heavy weight suiting. A trip through the factory to see all the different operations from spinning and weaving to the dyeing and pressing was most interesting.

When the Curtiss Mill was destroyed by fire it was a sad blow to the Town. For when Mr. Curtiss took advantage of the fine water power at Pomperaug and built the factories, he also built a thriving settlement of houses for the employees. These men and women became associated with the history of our Town and their descendants are among our leading citizens. The cluster of houses with the brick building and the dam with its rushing waters was an attractive spot.

Visitors to Woodbury were sure to be taken to Pomperaug to see the mill of which we were so proud and that added so much to our prosperity. Opposite the mill was the boarding house kept by one of Woodbury's grand good women whose gentle dignity and kindness makes her still live in the hearts of those privileged to know her. Then came the last fire that destroyed the mill and the homes were left vacant.

HEMINWAY SILK MILL

Ten years later the H. K. H. Silk Company of Watertown started a branch of their business in the old factory on this side of the river. The houses were restored, equipped with running water and electric light as Pomperaug had its own electric power. The factory received a modern equipment and employed about thirty people becoming an important addition to the Watertown plant. One factory manufactured five hundred pounds of silk to be made into ecru lace the rest of the output being knitting, crochet and embroidery silk.

Beside the woolen mill was the German silver factory of Benjamin Curtiss which made thimbles, spoons and spectacle frames. Henry Benedict learned the trade. Later Capewell Brothers made powder flasks in the same building which was a part of the original grist mill.

POMPERAUG BAND

In more recent years Pomperaug had a flourishing brass band of twenty instruments which was a credit to Woodbury. Charles Jenner was the leader whose father led the Queen's Band of England. A descendant plays in the Fulton Band of Waterbury.

In the upper room of their building the neighborhood prayer meetings were held until the Chapel was built. The lumber for the building was given by the Curtiss Brothers and the land by Seth Strong. The money required was raised by David Bull who was always present at meetings and led the music. His picture hung in the place of honor over the reading desk.

Mr. Charles Woodcock whose father was a skilled workman in the Pomperaug Mills, recently celebrated his twentieth anniversary as Bishop of Kentucky.

The home of Mrs. Ida Means Barnes in Pomperaug was built by Seth Strong in 1845. A member of her family, George H. Barnes is a banker in Kiobe, Japan.

Hon. John Strong's wife when in Canada, in her girlhood, at the time of Queen Victoria's visit to the Dominion greatly admired a house from which their own residence was designed. Their son William Strong grandson of Lieutenant John Strong bequeathed the home to Deacon Charles K. Smith and wife whose daughter Ruth B. Smith kept "The Country School" for young people in this same colonial home.

POMPERAUG VALLEY GOLF CLUB

In 1887 the Pomperaug Valley Golf Club was organized with about thirty members. The links were laid out on a territory of about a hundred acres along the banks of the historic river and a short distance south of the Pomperaug Falls.

The Golf Club was a popular activity. The Woodbury Reporter says: "A handicap tournament was held on the grounds September 3, 1900 for a cup presented by Mrs. Edward Hinman. There were 27 entries, 20 of whom started. The cup was won by Howard Allen. Score 91."

From the homes of Pomperaug have arisen those eminent in theology, in the science of medicine, school teachers and people of ability and character in every walk in life.

IDA MEANS BARNES

1809899

The Old Latch

My fingers touch its handle, chill and gray,
That graces yet the ancient paneled door;
Simply a thing made in another day—
Why should its years of usefulness be more
Than one who placed it there with clever hands?
It served so well in glad and cruel days,
The wonder is it answers my demands:
Servant of centuries—it still obeys.
And they who touched it in those years back there,
Went in and out as I have need today;
With clothing of strange cut and powdered hair,
With lace fichu, high hat, and brocade gay.

Still shines the hearth; our teacups are delf blue,
And this old latch now lets me in to you.

IDA NORTON MUNSON *in the Roycrofter*

Colonial Homes

The Orton Tavern

The Orton Tavern

For a half century the Orton Tavern built in 1711, on the Benjamin Franklin Post Road through Woodbury had been a gathering place to discuss the news of the day. As the Revolution drew near politics were considered and information scattered through the country side of the progress of the controversy with Great Britain.

SONS OF LIBERTY

An association "Sons of Liberty" was formed, sometimes meeting under the majestic elms which shaded the Orton Tavern, "Liberty Trees" as they were called. We can picture the assembly room with its huge fire place, filled with crackling wood, with its summer beam joists and girth, and furnished with settle, chairs and table, the rallying place during the long years of the Revolution.

GENERAL WASHINGTON ON INNS OF NEW ENGLAND

Washington in his Diary on the Inns of New England several of which he visited on his tour in 1789 says; "Of the absence of class distinction, of the similitude of the buildings, the general fashion of which is a chimney (always of stone or brick) and a door in the center, with a staircase fronting the latter—two flush stories with a very good show of sash and glass windows. The size is generally from thirty to forty feet in width exclusive of the back shed."

Leading men of the Town, delegates from the "Sons of Liberty" were appointed to the Convention which met in Hartford on February 11, 1766 with representatives from every town in the State to establish Union and secure Liberty.

What a story the Orton Tavern could tell could it speak; of how supplies in great abundance of provisions of food and clothing for Washington's army were piled along the highway and before the door of the Orton House with other military necessities collected from the surrounding region. How soldiers were drilled in the near by fields and fed under the shade of the "Liberty Trees."

GENERAL ETHAN ALLEN AND TICONDEROGA

Planned by the Hartford Convention from his native town (Ancient Woodbury) General Ethan Allen led a company of intrepid soldiers, joined later on their march by volunteers from Massachusetts to Fort Ticonderoga, where they accomplished one of the most brilliant and advantageous operations of the war.

GENERAL LA FAYETTE AND FRENCH ARMY IN WOODBURY

Through a defile in the granite cliffs just north of Lake Quassapaug in 1781 the French army General La Fayette commanding constructed a new highway for their equipment; the White Deer Rocks Road, shorter and more direct on their inland route from Boston to join General Washington in his attack on Yorktown. Their encampment was in Middle Quarter and extended far to the south. General La Fayette and officers were entertained at the residence of Judge Daniel Sherman whose colonial home was south of the Henry Benedict house, which was the dwelling place of another of the Sherman families. The fine appearance of the troops and the noble motive which brought them here, to aid a suffering people inspired others to join the the army. The French soldiers returned through Woodbury to embark for their country. The Orton Tavern looked upon and participated in these events. Here the final victory was celebrated and the soldiers remaining from Washington's army welcomed.

WOODBURY THE ANCESTRAL TOWN OF GENERAL U. S. GRANT AND GENERAL W. T. SHERMAN

Woodbury may justly be proud that of the victorious leaders in the Civil War General U. S. Grant and General W. T. Sherman were of Connecticut and of Woodbury. Their ancestors repose here side by side as their sons were associated in winning the victories of the Civil War. In April 1887 General W. T. Sherman and his brother Hon. John Sherman came to Woodbury to visit their ancestral town and where their fathers rested. At the Orton Tavern the reception was held and the entertainment given to the honored guests.

After a long life of esteemed service the Orton Tavern has been removed to a life of renewed beauty and honor.

JULIA MINOR STRONG

The Thomas Bull House

The Thomas Bull House

The first of our family in Woodbury was Deacon Samuel Bull. I think that he and his brother Thomas obtained their land from the Indians and so far as I know there has been no deed or sale or mortgage of the homestead outside of the family since that time.

The two brothers made a contract in regard to land in the reign of Queen Anne in 1711. It is beautifully executed on parchment with a quill pen and perfectly preserved, now in my brother's possession. This Deacon Samuel Bull married the only daughter of Rev. Zechariah Walker and after her death he married again. There were no children and he adopted his nephew Thomas the son of his brother Thomas who had settled in Farmington.

This adopted son became an officer in the Continental Army and later a Major in the Revolutionary War. He inherited the Samuel Bull place in 1750 when he was twenty-one years old. I think he must have added to the original house which was just east of the present building. This addition was built in the 1750's and stood for more than one hundred and fifty years. I suppose that his son David Samuel was born here and his son, the Thomas Bull whom some of you may remember and who died in 1884.

When this Thomas Bull, my grandfather, married Susan Sherman in January 1824, I think he took her to the same house and with his mother. Here his oldest daughter, the Miss Elizabeth whom you know, was born and during the same year they moved into their new house which stands today a century old. When I was a little girl and used to explore the treasures of the attic, I noticed the figures 1-8-2-5 painted on the attic door and my Grandfather explained to me what they indicated. When the old house was vacated the older part was removed and the new part stood as I have said until recently.

As I remember this old building it had one large room with windows on the east and west sides. On the north side were two small rooms and a chimney. Around the fire place were blue and white Dutch tiles of which I have a few now. When LaFayette's soldiers were quartered in this neighborhood a group were sheltered here and they wrote the names of their French girls on the window panes. Grandfather used this room for storage and tool room. Here he kept busy on rainy days.

The present house originally had small panes of glass in the windows. There were two doors on the east side, one opening into a hall from which one could enter the front sitting room or dining room. About forty-five years ago this hall was added to the dining room and the east wall extended six or eight feet, making a large living room.

Grandmother always sat by a north window and there was an outside door just back of her chair. The north wind played about that door to her discomfort and she asked that it be closed. As nothing was being done one day when "Squire Bull" as he was called was away from home she had a carpenter build a big china closet just outside and covering the door thus accomplishing two purposes at once. No doubt he appreciated the affair from all angles.

He was a great reader sitting at another north window across the drop leaf table from Grandmother. He read carefully never skipping a word without knowing its origin and meaning and keeping his dictionary at hand. Every geographical name was located in his atlas and I remember when he read of Dr. Kane's Arctic expedition and of Livingston's travels in Africa he lost confidence in the atlas, for it did not give all the new strange places mentioned. His mind was a treasure house, tho he said little it was always to the point.

In the days following the Civil War, an army of tramps over ran Connecticut. Several might ask for help in our day, but Grandmother never turned one away without food and shelter if it was needed. What ever else was omitted Grandmother read her three chapters every day and five every Sunday for she read her bible through every year and planned for her daily drive. Usually the old phaeton carried a basket of products from the farm, or a bundle of something needed which she distributed. Does anyone remember the old horse named Napoleon Bonaparte called "Bony" for short, tho too fat to move?

Two customs of the house stand out in memory, one the strict Sabbath beginning at sundown on Saturday evening, the other was the annual Thanksgiving dinner a joyous occasion maintained to the end. Grandmother and Grandfather lived together sixty years 1824-1884. Tho both were feeble they celebrated their wedding anniversary with a family gathering. All four of their children were present, Elizabeth, David, Julia, and Mrs. Shove. Six weeks later, both Thomas Bull and his wife had ended their long journey and a double headstone marks their last resting place.

Four years later father took possession and four years afterward he died in the same room where his father died and in which he David Samuel was born in 1826. So now that my brother owns the place it has been held by the family for more than two centuries.

The old elm on the triangular green in front was planted by Major Thomas Bull who died in 1803. Five generations have enjoyed its shade.

LAURA ELIZABETH POWELSON

The E. D. Marvin House

The Marvin House

The Marvin House in the Hollow, now called "The Gambrels" was built by Jabez Bacon in 1762 or 1763 and owned by some of his family until 1834 when it was purchased by Daniel Curtiss and known as "The Daniel Curtiss Homestead" until bought by Henry Canfield in 1926, and a few months later sold to Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Marvin, the present owners.

This three story house is one of the best types of colonial architecture, being built with a hand hewn oak frame mortised and pinned, has a six inch over hang at each story, has a hip roof. The clapboards are nailed with hand wrought iron nails. The house is painted white with green blinds, and the front, which faces south has on the first floor, a solid door with side-lights, hand made hinges; paneled around door and side-lights; two windows on either side of door. The second story has five windows, and the third, three dormer windows; all with small colonial glass.

The front entrance consists of a large stone, covered by porch roof. As we enter the house into a small hall we exclaim at once at the beauty of the hand carved raised paneling that covers the entire side of the stairway, of the unusual carved balusters. In the rooms at either side of the hall are open fire-places, with hearthstones two feet by five in size; the entire chimney sides of the rooms covered with hand carved raised paneling; ceiling and corner beams covered with hand-carved paneling and entire room up to window height wainscoted with hand carved paneling.

The long room in back of these front rooms (the original kitchen) has an extra large fire place two feet deep by nine feet long with a hearth stone three by twelve feet, in the room is also a good corner cupboard. The Dutch tiling around a number of the fire-places is unusual and quaint.

Another feature of interest in the southeast room first floor is the inside blinds made to slide into the front wall from the windows. In this room Mr. Bacon is supposed to have counted his wealth, secure from outside gazers. The second and third floors also have the beautiful paneling and tiled fire-places.

Directly west of the house is the attractive red house of Mrs. Marvin's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bradley. This house was remodeled from "The Hollow Store" noted for a number of years as the center of mercantile pursuits.

Mr. Cothren in his History states that for years "Mr. Bacon was the sole merchant of this town and all the neighboring towns; and so large at times was his stock of trade that, it is credibly reported, merchants from New Haven sometimes visited Woodbury, and purchased from Jabez Bacon goods to retail afterward in that city." Mr. Cothren continues to tell that he had such control in the New York market that with a turn of his hand, he could "put the screws on an article and made its price rise and fall like a barometer." This wealthy and famous business man died September 16th, 1806.

In 1834 this property was purchased by Daniel Curtiss, a lineal descendant of Captain William Curtiss, one of the original proprietors of Woodbury (1672). In connection with his dry goods and grocery business, he commenced the manufacture of silverware—spoons, thimbles, etc., and was a pioneer in this branch of manufacturing in this part of the state. He was the inventor of German silver and first to manufacture goods made of this material. He employed pedlers to sell his goods through the country, among them C. P. Huntington the railroad magnate. About 1840 he sold out his silver business to Waterbury parties, then commenced the manufacture of woolen also silk goods and with his sons, Walter, Horace and Edward under the firm name of Daniel Curtiss Sons. After his death in 1878 the business continued until 1905, when fire destroyed buildings and machinery.

The five daughters and three sons of Mr. and Mrs. Curtiss were born and reared in the beautiful house in the Hollow and many are the stories told of good times and many are the traditions of the Bacons. Again in 1926 this property passed into the hands of people who love and appreciate the architecture and who have remodeled the place with accuracy and charm.

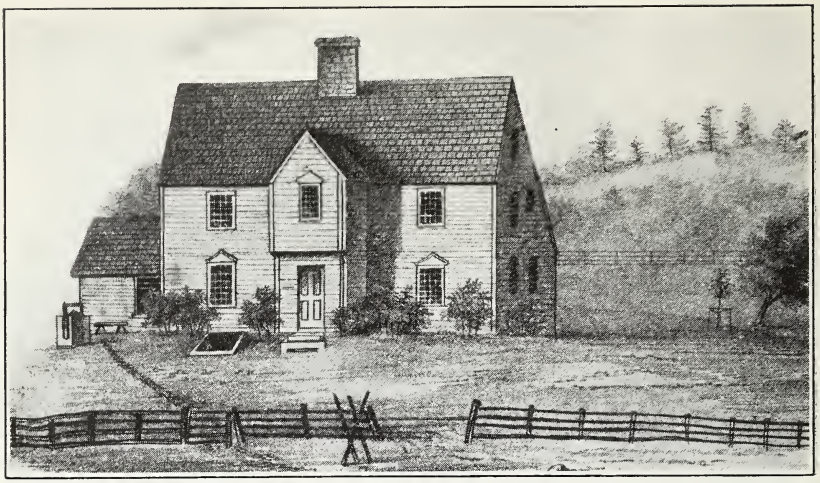
EULA CURTISS STURGES

THE OLD FLOOR

Still firm and strong it offers to uphold
All feet that press its wide-cracked, smooth-worn face
Uncertain, shuffling footsteps of the old,
Gay, noisy tramp of childhood's romping pace,
Loitering feet of lovers near the fire,
The bridal march with solemn, quiet tread,
Brave, slow but dauntless steps of those who tire,
The heavy feet of men who lift the dead.

This human contact it has felt for years—
So long, it seems a part it must retain
Of all the footsteps staunch or hushed by fears—
The countless feet that never come again.
Old floor, old dreams—and you and I still here!
How kind was life! We have been happy, dear.

IDA NORTON MUNSON *in Rotarian*



The Anthony Stoddard House

The Anthony Stoddard House

In the year 1700 after the death of Rev. Zechariah Walker, Rev. Anthony Stoddard was engaged to supply the pulpit of the First Congregational Church of Woodbury. It was voted to allow him as maintenance 70 pounds per annum to be paid in provisions, that is; wheat, peas, Indian corn also firewood. "We also," runs the agreement, "will build him a home, that is; carpenter and mason work, he to provide nails and glass. By building said house is intended floors filling up, plastering and partitions also a well. We also promise to accommodate with 5 and 20 acres of good hill division, 5 and 20 of woods division, 12½ acres of pasture, 4½ of white oak plain division."

FINE COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE

The contract was immediately carried out. The house was two stories in height with an extension, two windows in front on the lower story and three on the upper story, two above and below on the sides and one in the attic. The panes were small, twenty to a window. Glass was then a luxury. In front was the portico which extended above the roof. The second floor of their projection was the pastor's study, where for fifty-eight years he prepared his sermons.

On the first floor for more than forty years the sessions of the Probate Court of Woodbury were held. On the other side of the portico was a room probably the sitting room as the usual gathering place of the family was called; beyond, the kitchen and possibly a bed room. Many of these must have had a fireplace. On some of the cranes that swung were cooked the provisions that were contributed by a generous parish. In the kitchen must have been the hooks to hold the meat and frames for drying fruits and vegetables for winter use and a brick oven that no modern range has ever surpassed for baking toothsome food.

We would like to describe at greater length this old time dwelling erected in 1702 and standing until a few years ago. But alas; the Colonial Dames could not secure it, and it was torn down and replaced by a more modern building. It was a type of early colonial architecture such as was in vogue for country homes everywhere: and let it be said, while the people of Woodbury were not in any sense architects they had the taste and vision to erect a home for their pastor which stood for more than two hundred years staunch and sound as were the sons of New England and which withal was an example of colonial art.

ROYAL ANCESTRY

Rev. Anthony Stoddard was of English extraction. His grand parents came to this country in 1639. His more remote ancestors came from Normandy to England with William the Conqueror, who was a cousin. In the office of heraldry in England in the coat of arms of their ancient family are three stars and a border of leaves, crest of a ducal coronet, a demi-horse leaping. Motto "Be in haste but not in a hurry."

THEOLOGIAN—LAWYER—MINISTER

This old time minister, be it said in passing, was a man of more than ordinary gifts. In addition to a knowledge of law he understood medicine and practiced curing the bodies as well as the souls of his extensive parish. He was no weakling but a militant christian. He shot two Indians lurking near his home. His domestic life passed in Woodbury deserves a brief notice. He was twice married. In 1700 he married Prudence Wells of Wethersfield who died in 1714, by whom he had eight children. They were Mary, Solomon, who died in 1727 of a sickness called "The Great Fever," Eliakim, who married Joanna Curtis, Elisha, who married Rebekah Sherman, Israel, John, Prudence, who married Joseph Curtis, and Gideon, who married Olive Curtis. His second wife was Mary Sherman, by whom he had three children: Esther, who married Preserved Strong, Abijah, who married Eunice Curtis, and Elizabeth, who married Daniel Munn.

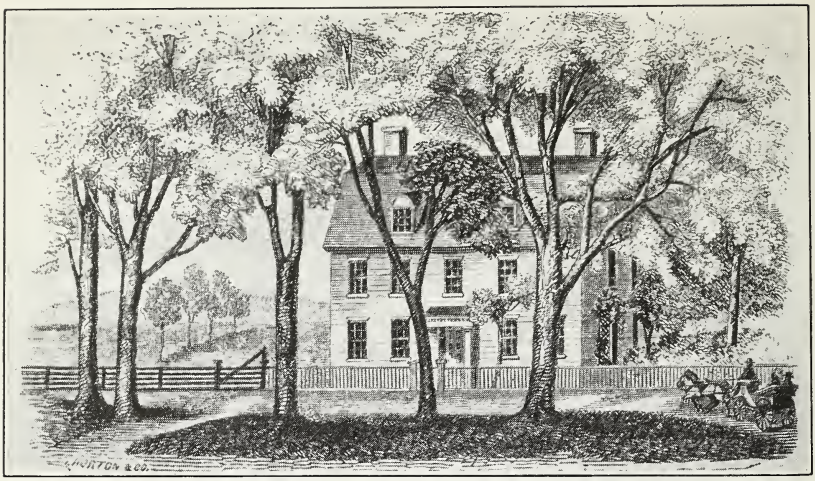
A COLONIAL TEA PARTY

A spirit of mischief was not lacking in this household of young people. One evening when the elders were away some young men came to call upon the daughters. How should these youths be entertained? Previous to this some one had made a present to Mrs. Stoddard of a pound of tea at that time a rare and costly luxury. This precious tea was put aside for company or sickness. The girls thought some of it should be used for this festive occasion. Water was put to boil in the big iron kettle, tea added and according to the account, allowed to boil and boil then was dished upon a plater and served leaves and all in soup plates. A participant in this party told the story in after years in great glee when tea had become a daily necessity.

Rev. Anthony Stoddard had many notable descendants. Among them were the Sherman brothers, John, for many years Senator from Ohio. William T. one of the great Generals of the Civil War, and Jonathan Edwards said to have had the greatest intellect of any American of his time.

The descendants of the Woodbury family have scattered all over the earth and whether they have done well or ill they can truthfully say—"The glory of the children is their fathers."

Mrs. R. S. Burnap



The Hezekiah Thompson House

The Hezekiah Thompson House

Hezekiah Thompson was born in New Haven in 1735. His father died when he was about two years old. The New Haven records show that when he was fourteen his Uncle Enos was appointed his guardian, and he evidently bound him out to learn the trade of a saddler.

Hezekiah had a taste for reading and was ambitious for more learning and a different occupation. On becoming of age he began to study law under Colonel Walker of Stratford. He soon began the practice of law in Woodbury and was the first person to practice the profession exclusively, within the present limits of the town. He stood well as a lawyer and magistrate, being Justice of the Peace. His integrity and nice discrimination were so well established that questions of difference were often brought before him by litigating parties and left to his decision. He was very dignified, yet had the keenest wit and his jocose remarks were long remembered and repeated in the town.

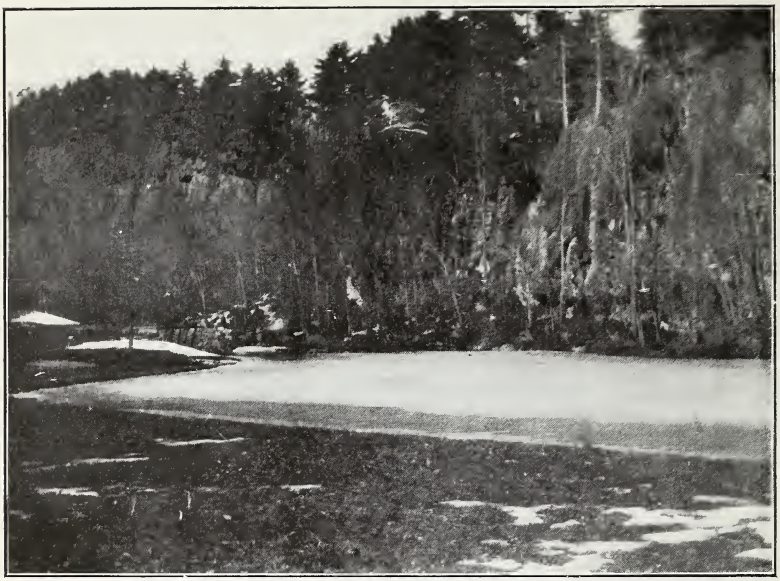
He represented the Town in General Assembly in 1782, 1784, 1788 and 1789. He was a charter member of King Solomon's Lodge. In 1761 he married Rebecca Judson. They had eight children. Hezekiah Thompson died in 1803 and his tombstone is under St. Paul's Church. The time allowed him from his professional pursuits was occupied in overseeing and cultivating a handsome landed property of which he was the owner.

In 1760 he built the house at the southern end of the street, now owned and occupied by Mrs. Edward M. Smith. The land for the homestead was purchased from Salmon Jenners. At one time the place was known as the "Averill Mansion." Hezekiah Thompson had two granddaughters who were first and second wives of one Augustin Averill, a wealthy New York merchant. This family owned the place for some years.

In 1889 Edward M. Smith bought the place of George B. Lewis. It was originally a large nine room house with hip roof, dormer windows, and small porch at front and south side doors, it contained the usual beams, mouldings, chair rails and "h" and "l" hinges that were common to that period. The original front door is still in use altho a window has been cut in it. The picture in Cothren's History shows a picket fence close to the door step and a road running close to the fence.

I say nine rooms; possibly there were other rooms on the third floor but the dormer windows had been taken out at the time Mr. Smith took possession of the house. At this time there was also a small ell on the north-east containing pantry and sink room. The interior arrangement was unlike the majority of the houses of its period here in Woodbury. There is a hall running straight through, with two rooms on either side. On the south side of the south front room is a large fire place, with the entire chimney sides paneled and a fine corner cupboard in the south-west corner. In the north front room there was a fireplace on the east side. The north-east room was evidently the kitchen, as here was found the large fire place and brick oven. Some twenty years ago the chimney on the north was taken out and the two north rooms quite changed by Mr. Smith. Upstairs there are four rooms corresponding to those on the first floor, and a small hall bedroom at the front.

EUNICE HUNTINGTON TOMLINSON



Orenaug Rocks and Crystal Lake

The Nathaniel Smith House

Near a curve in the winding trail of the Indian chieftain through Pomperaug Valley under the protecting shade of Sentinel Rock, about the year 1750, a beautiful site was chosen for a home.

Here a fine mansion was built, the home of Dr. Joseph Perry, who they tell us, for forty years, through darkness and light, summer's heat and winter's cold did his best for the preservation of the lives of the dwellers in the valley. Whether they were gathering grain in the harvest field and saw a horse and rider hurrying along in a cloud of dust, or sitting by their fireside on a winter night and heard the horse's hoofs on a frosty road they knew it was their beloved physician and in their heart bid him "God speed!"

He taught the healing art to many a student. Among them was his son Nathaniel Perry, who followed in his father's footsteps, honored the profession and to whom our Historian says, Yale College gave the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

Of the young men of Woodbury Nathaniel Smith and his brother were commissioned to go on a commercial trip through New England each taking a separate route. While awaiting his brother at the meeting place in Vermont he went to the Court House where a session was being held, and was impressed by method of conducting the case and decided to become a lawyer.

After the return of Nathaniel Smith to Woodbury he applied to Judge Reeve of Litchfield for admission to the Law School. He was disheartened by his limited education but with the fine intellectual powers which he possessed he completed the course of law in less than the usual time and began the profession of law in Woodbury. He represented the Town in the General Assembly in 1789, our record says, "was re-elected several times and appointed a Member of Congress, where he was instrumental in carrying forward measures of importance; among them, the establishing of a fund for the public schools of the State and a site for Williams College." As Judge of the Supreme Court his opinions in international affairs were regarded of great value. Judge Nathaniel Smith married Ruth Benedict only daughter of Rev. Noah Benedict third pastor of the First Congregational Church of Woodbury, who built for his daughter the fine residence now occupied by Attorney and Mrs. G. R. Sturges.

Hon. Nathaniel B. Smith son of Judge Smith was born in Woodbury in 1795. He received a college education at Yale as the record tells us, became a student of law in the office of Hon. Noah B. Benedict completing the course in the Litchfield Law School and continued the profession of his father in Woodbury. He represented the Town in the General Assembly was re-elected and received the appointment of Judge of Probate which office he held many years. Hon Nathaniel B. Smith married Mary A. Goodrich daughter of Rev. Samuel Goodrich known as Peter Parley. He purchased and occupied the beautiful residence built by Dr. Joseph Perry.

The outlook eastward from the mansion was upon a range of crystalline trap formation called Orenaug Rocks. The parallel ridges inclosed a valley, a sacred place where our Pilgrim Fathers during eight years with one interval, met for Sabbath worship. From a pulpit of stone the pastor addressed the fathers and mothers, sons and daughters who gathered in this secluded spot, guarded by sentinels stationed upon Sentinel Rock. On July 5, 1811, a prayer service of remarkable interest was held at this place called Bethel Rock. President Tyler, Dr. Lyman Beecher and many others attended. It was estimated that eight hundred people were present. Westward the land sloped gently to the river which bears the chieftain's name. To the south was Castle Rock, the fortress of Chief Pomperaug. From this lofty summit by a series of signals, information could be conveyed to all the tribes near and to those in the far north. The chieftain's resting place is marked by a tablet placed in commemoration on which occasion Judge Huntington of Woodbury delivered the address.

Retired somewhat from the highway shaded by trees of fine symmetry, the approach to the mansion was through an arched avenue of pink and white hawthorn. The carved entrance opened into a spacious hall where large paintings of noted ancestors impressed the mind with the honor and dignity of the abode. Works of art from foreign lands and elegant furnishings adorned the drawing room. The extensive library contained many choice volumes including the writings of Samuel C. Goodrich (Peter Parley). Around the large Franklin fire place in the reception room many distinguished people, governors statesmen, diplomats to foreign countries and authors frequently gathered and were entertained. The reception room opened into a lovely garden filled with choicest flowers. Exquisite china from Paris the finest of English dinner sets and Chippendale furniture graced the dining hall. Carved panels finished much of the interior. In one of the rooms a touch upon an unobserved panel disclosed a winding stairway leading to a room overhead having no other entrance. A safe retreat in those troublesome times in the Colonies.

Late one Saturday evening a wearied traveller sought shelter and was welcomed for no one was ever turned away. On returning from church on Sunday the stranger who was an artist had disappeared leaving in a room on the south side a beautiful painting which he had done over the mantel.

An antique desk upon which Rochambeau had written contained a secret drawer where two hundred dollars was found. This desk is now in the possession of Dr. Goodrich Smith. Many paintings from the residence of Judge Smith were loaned to the Connecticut Cottage at the Centennial Exposition.

Among us are those who recall this beautiful residence of Hon. Nathaniel B. Smith, Judge Smith as he was called, who attended the services of the First Congregational Church within our remembrance. Mrs. Emily Goodrich Smith author of "Life in the Age of Homespun" in Dr. Anderson's History of Waterbury, the lovely and talented daughter and son and family who were the last to occupy this beautiful residence, suddenly destroyed by fire. The descendants of this home are filling honored places in the world today.

Among the beautiful pictures that abide in the memory of the writer is that of this lovely home, the friendship of the family, and to whom were shown and described by them the many wonderful characteristics of one of the finest homes in Woodbury. The handsome residence built by Horace D. Curtiss stands on this site.

JULIA MINOR STRONG

The Daniel Bacon House

The Daniel Bacon House

Woodbury is greatly favored by having many fine old homes. One of the most attractive of these is located in North Woodbury. It is known as Ingleside, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Blackmar, who have restored it to its original condition. A sun parlor has been added and modern improvements installed.

The house is of the colonial type, two and one-half stories with attic. The location is ideal amid wonderful old maple trees with an extensive lawn sloping to the south facing the "Green." This mansion was built by Daniel Bacon in 1793. A lovely house for his bride as he was married that year to Rebecca Thompson, daughter of Judge Hezekiah Thompson who practiced law in Woodbury. They entertained with a kind and generous hospitality. One of their descendants writes that "Mr. Bacon was a remarkable man and his wife a queen among women." They are credited with having the first cook stove in Woodbury, the ladies of the town expressing interest in the new invention.

Daniel Bacon inherited much business ability from his father Jabez Bacon for he was a successful merchant having a store near his home and adding to his already considerable wealth. He possessed great strength of character and filled a large place in the community in both political and church affairs. He was instrumental in having the North Church built on its present site giving five hundred dollars toward it.

The time came when a Town Hall was needed. There was much discussion and no decision made. To supply this need Mr. Daniel Bacon erected a two story building. The History of Woodbury says "On December 29, 1823 at a Town Meeting Deacon Elijah Sherman being Moderator it was voted to adjourn this meeeting to Mr. Daniel Bacon's new building immediately." He gave the free use of the second story to the Town until 1845 when the present Town Hall was built. For some years the prayer meetings of the North Church were held in the room down stairs.

Finally the building was bought by George Saxton, moved back from the street, the roof raised and other improvements made and is now the comfortable home of Mrs. George Saxton. The extension was moved farther east enlarged and converted into a modern residence now owned by Mrs. Flora Randall.

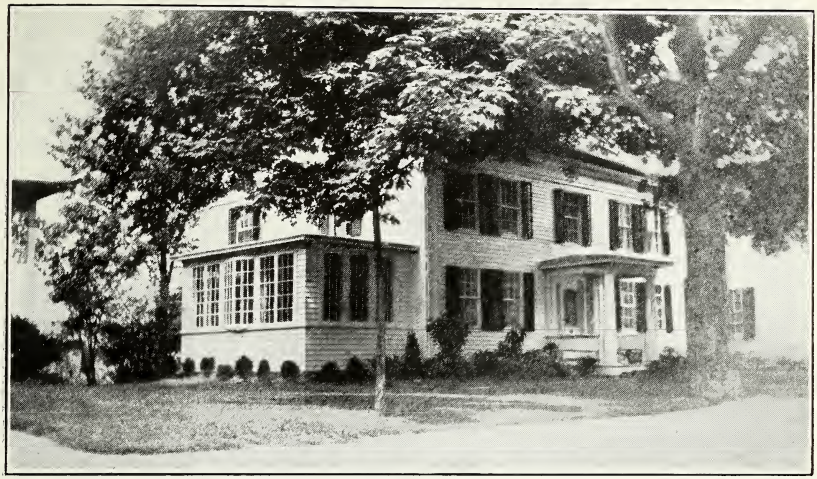
Of the eight children of Daniel Bacon, Rev. William Thompson Bacon was the youngest. He came into possession of the old home in 1852, living there until 1866 when he sold the property. Many recall Rev. William Thompson Bacon. For about four years he kept a boy's school. He built the study, that still stands near his home, where he could pursue his literary work. At the age of twelve he was sent to the Episcopal Academy in Cheshire to be fitted for college. Here he remained for two years, leaving to take up business which was given up and he entered Yale College from which he was graduated in 1837. He also was graduated from the Divinity School of New Haven. Soon after he married Elizabeth Ann, daughter of Professor Jonathan Knight of the Yale Medical Department.

For three years he was settled over the Congregational Church at Trumbull, Connecticut. Afterward supplying at different times. Ill health compelled him to give up the ministry. He became one of the editors of the New England Magazine also was editor and proprietor of the New Haven Journal and Courier. He published two books of poems which were highly praised, one volume before 1840 and one in 1848.

Hoping for restored health he purchased a farm near Derby, Connecticut, living there for eight years. He owned and edited the Derby Transcript until his death in 1881. While living in Woodbury he greatly improved his old home. Mrs. Bacon had a wonderful flower garden west of her home which is said to have resembled a sunken garden with its walls, steps leading down to it, a brook flowing through it and filled with many beautiful flowers.

Mrs. Annie Fitch Shaw, daughter of Rev. William Thompson Bacon has a fine home in Derby and her brother Daniel H. Bacon resides on the opposite side of the Avenue. Of the nine children only these two are living.

ELIZABETH B. SAGE



The F. F. Hitchcock House

Early Colonial Homes

In 1864, Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote " 'Our House' may be in any style of architecture, low or high. It may be the old brown farm house, with its tall well-sweep, or the one story gambrel-roofed cottage; or the large square white house, with green blinds, under the wind sung elms of a century; or it may be the log cabin of the wilderness, with its one room, still there is a spell in the memory of it beyond all conjurations."

"Its stone, brick or mortar are like no other; its very clapboards and shingles are dear to us, powerful to bring back the memories of early days, and all that is sacred in home-love.

"There is no one fact of our human existence that has a stronger influence upon us, than the house we dwell in, especially that in which our earlier and more impressionable years are spent.

"The building and arrangement of a house influence the health, the comfort, the morals, the religion."

On the 20th day of April 1659, Lieutenant Thomas Wheeler, one of the original proprietors of Woodbury, received a deed of the entire territory of "Ancient Woodbury" from the Indians. The bi-centennial anniversary of this event was celebrated by Woodbury on the 4th and 5th of July, 1859. In subsequent years this grant was ratified to all the original proprietors of Woodbury by numerous deeds from all the Indians of New Haven, Fairfield and Litchfield Counties. So the Indian title to this territory became vested in the original proprietors.

And on the 9th day of May, 1672, the General Court made the following grant:—"This Court grants that Mr. Sam'l Sherman, Lieut. Wm. Curtiss, Eng. Joseph Judson, and John Minor, themselves and associates, liberty to erect a plantation at Pomperauge, provided it doth not prejudice any former grant to any other plantation or partic-

ular person: provided any other honest inhabitants of Stratford have liberty to joyne with them in settling there and that they intertaine so many inhabitants as the place will conveniently intertaine, and that they settle there within the space of three years."

This act was rendered necessary as a law had been framed at a very early date, that no persons should "buy, hire or receive as a gift or mortgage, any parcel of land of any Indians" except for the use of the Colony, or for the benefit of some town with the sanction of the court.

Soon after the above grant was made, Sherman, Curtiss, Judson and Minor bought from the Pootatuck and the Pagassett Indians, all the land now known as Woodbury, Southbury, Bethlehem and Washington. So under this grant the four men named with thirteen others, who were their associates, became the original proprietors of Woodbury and owned every foot in it. Their first camp was made in White Oak, Southbury, the latter not becoming a separate town until 1731.

A second company followed in a few days, camping in Middle Quarter, and all, after fully examining localities, began to select their home lots. The Stiles, Curtiss, Hinman and a few other families chose their lots in Southbury, the Shermans selected Middle Quarter, the first Sherman house, the home of Dan'l Sherman, Jr., being near the home of Mrs. Ella Garlick. The Hurds located in The Hollow, the Minors on the hill to the west of this, the Walkers near the home of Mrs. Lofmark, the niece in the Zacheriah Walker family being the heroine in "The Legend of Bethel Rock." Some of the land thus taken up by the first settlers, has never passed by deed, since the title was obtained from the Indians, but still remains in the original names, having passed from father to son, for the two centuries. The Erastus Minor place is one of these, the first owner being John Minor, and the present Wm. Minor, direct line.

The first houses were built of logs, with the naked land or split logs for a floor. Tradition says that there were 40 of these rude log houses in Waterbury centre at one time, and that they, history states, in 1678 "were good and substantial dwellings, at least 18 ft. long, by 16 ft. wide, and 9 ft. between joynts, with a good chimley of stone and clay mortar, and were designed for shelter rather than elegance."

This description probably applies to our log houses as well. The first framed house was built about 20 rods west of the First Church, on the street called Judson, because the Judson families settled there, and was covered with rent oak clapboards, its architecture being in the lean-to-style. The long lean-to roof, sometimes sloping nearly to the ground, was a shrewd attempt of the early settlers to avoid the tax laid by Queen Anne on all two story houses. These salt-box houses, as they are called, are quite characteristic of rural New England. They allow for great surface area on the first floor, and provide full height chambers on one side of the upper story. The low roof, with its gentle rise, had its possible disadvantages, as voiced in an old couplet:—

> "Oh for a thousand bricks, to build my chimney higher,
> To keep the pesky neighbors gals, from putting out my fire."

It is claimed that the Candee House, just south of the Stiles House is the oldest in Litchfield County, as it was completed before the Stoddard House, though both were being built at the same time, started in 1698, completed in 1702, double planked and palisaded. Nutting in "Connecticut Beautiful" states that Connecticut has more sorts of houses than any other state, and that all houses built before 1795 used hand wrought nails, that the first window sash to slide dates from 1717, and that before 1740 chimneys were usually built of stone. The larger the fireplace, broadly speaking, the older the house.

In 1900 when Mrs. N. M. Strong's book, "Woodbury—The Town and People," was printed a Mrs. Augusta T. Tullar, at that time 95 years old, whose early years were spent in East Side, stated that she remembered when there were but four houses on our main street between the river and the North Church. These were small one story houses and brown due to rain and sun, having never been painted. There were two houses in Hotchkissville, a small one story house plastered on the outside, where the proprietor of the woolen mill lived, and the Cramer place, now standing.

On the west side of the main street, between the Methodist parsonage (where the early church meetings were held in the kitchen) and the First Church, there were four houses, the owners being Timothy Terrill, Nathaniel Bacon, Deacon Elijah Sherman, and Daniel Martin. The Sherman place is now occupied by Chas. Roswell, and the stone door step still bears the date May 19, 1791 A. D., chiseled on it. In the basement of this house, a tannery was located, later being moved across the street.

On the east side there were no houses between the Bacon place (Mr. Edward Mitchell) and the Hon. Matthew Minor, now the home of Miss L. H. Clements.

There was one house in Pomperaug, a foot bridge crossing the river to it, and Mrs. Tullar also recalled that the first house to be raised without the use of intoxicating liquors among those assisting at the raising, was built by James Atwood, and as near as I can learn the house is the one now occupied by Mr. Stanley Munsell and family.

The main part of the house of Mr. and Mrs. Hoadley Willes was the law office of Hon. Matthew Minor, standing between Miss Clements' and the Cothren house, being moved to its present location by G. W. Lathrop.

The Woodbury Inn, originally built close to the sidewalk, has been moved back so that the well that used to be near the back door is now cemented up, and in a part of the cellar. It has been used at various times as a boarding house, a doctor's office, a boy's boarding school kept by A. N. Lewis, a home for many private families, and was once the home of Chas. B. Phelps, who used the north room for a probate office. The Ralph Betts house was built of the gallery of the second church building of the First Congregational Society, moved from the green near the monument, probably early in 1800.

The home of H. S. Hitchcock is built partly on the foundation of the Sabbath Day House used at the time this second church building was in use.

The F. F. Hitchcock house resembles in many of the rooms the style and architecture of the Glebe House, and may have been built from a similar plan. In making changes from time to time to make the home more comfortable, the various owners have taken out the old stone chimney built with wooden beams, removed a porch that extended across the entire front of the house, replaced the uneven floors with parquet and added a sun porch to the south.

The workmen noticed that the house was, in the early days, planked, and this with other features, as the hand wrough nails used in the old oak floors, proves that the house was built in the 1700's. When Mr. Hitchcock took down the old stone chimney, a receipted bill for tea and pepper dated 1783 was discovered in a rat's nest over a beam. The bill was signed by Lampson who at that time must have lived in this house. But the oldest deed in possession of the owner was given by Aaron Hitchcock in 1814, in which he stated "that neither he, his heirs, nor anyone else by the name of Hitchcock would ever trespass on these premises again." It transpired, however, that Mr. F. F. Hitchcock came into possession of the same house in 1878.

The south end of the business block, to the north of the house, is the original store built by Mitchell Lampson over one hundred years ago. Mr. Lampson was the grandfather of W. M. L. Scoville, a founder of Scovill Manufacturing Co., of Waterbury. Mitchell Lampson died in 1807, his son became the next owner, then Aaron Hitchcock, Samuel Steele, Aaron Hitchcock the second time, and then a general store was run by Mallory and Forbes. After this until 1878 it again became a drug store owned by W. M. Woodruff, and the Post Office was located here also at this time. Since 1878 a hardware business has occupied this part of the building.

It is not unlikely that all these owners lived with their families in the attached house, which some time before this date had been connected with the store. Wide porches also had been added across the front of both the business block and the house. Under the ceiling of the house porch, which was removed in 1928, were hung a dozen wooden pails, which the owner of the house was expected to keep water tight, and intact in number; for they were the only systematized means the town had for fighting a fire, before the fire company was formed.

The Marshall house, built by James Tomlinson, and the Doolittle next south, the Skelly once the home of Judge Preston, where court was held and files and records kept and which was built by Harmon Stoddard, and the Moody-Douglass on the foundation of which the Lofmark house now stands, are all interesting; and have had with their respective builders a share in making the history of the town.

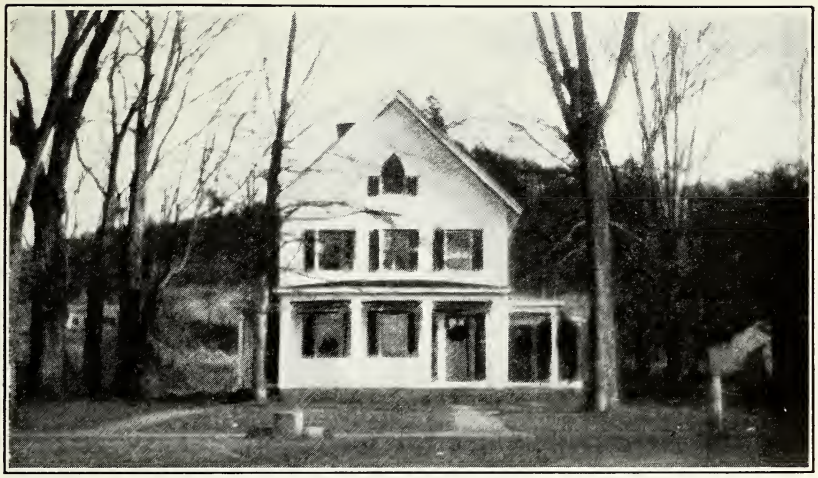
Gideon Walker, before mentioned as the probable builder of the Webb house, was clerk of the Probate Court for 19 years, and at that time lived in an old lintel roofed house, that stood on the site of the Howard Hitchcock house. The incidents clustered around this house became part of the plot of a novel by Hollister called "Phillip of Mt. Hope."

The Henry Benedict house is of great age, belonging originally to one of the members of the Sherman family; and has a Duleth door at the front entrance. If it was owned by Gideon Sherman, history almost repeated itself, for the part of Lafayette's army that camped near this house ate with the owner's consent twelve bushels of apples and drank several barrels of sweet cider made in his mills. While Mr. Benedict was living a party of General Sherman's descendants came to this house and asked to be allowed to buy a window. This Mr. Benedict refused, but treated the guests to russet apples. Some time between Sherman and Benedict, the place was occupied by a man named Brush, who built the ell to accommodate his help, his business being hat making; and the factory used at this time became later the red barn now on the property of Mr. Henry Perro. In the large room in the ell of the Benedict house, is an unusual device about which the present owner of the house can give no information. On the south side of the fireplace is the regulation oven, while on the opposite side is a huge copper kettle set in bricks, with a fire-box below, and a faucet in its base.

In this same neighborhood which is called Middle Quarter there were many houses owned by men of the Summers' family, the Garlick Daniel and Spruce Bank Farms being among these; and with the Kirtland, Stone and Trowbridge places they take us to the town line. These houses have been much altered to become summer homes for New York families.

Mentioned in this article are only those houses that are now standing, at least in parts or on the original foundations; but many others are equally interesting.

Lottie E. Hitchcock



The William Cothren House

The William Cothren House

In a paper written by Mr. Cothren it is recorded, that he bought in 1850 a rocky pasture land where in 1851 he built his house. At the time there was a wide western view, now cut off by the buildings opposite. Evidently the house was smaller at first, also it was unlike the ordinary New England house. The steep roof tending toward the Gothic type of architecture, giving it an almost church-like appearance.

There is a story told, that Mr. Cothren saw a man named Jack McDavit (of Jack's Corner) gazing earnestly at the house, so he put his head out of the attic window saying, "What are you looking at; do you think this is a church?" Jack's reply was, "Sure I did until the Divil stuck his head out of the window."

The large bay with its five windows from floor to web-like ceiling, and wings on each side were added later, in the north side was Mr. Cothren's law office. It was the first house in Woodbury to be heated with steam. Some of the old fashioned radiators are in use sending out heat as the sheet iron wood stoves used to. The house was lighted with gas made in a building on the premises. Water for the house came from four wells in different localities on the hill. The house increased in size until there are now fourteen rooms, one a pleasant attic chamber, which is said to have been where Mr. Cothren kept the material for his history of Woodbury. A flagstone walk was around the house, with stone walks from each of the three front doors. The stone steps, and the ten stone posts which once stood by the roadside, were from Mine Hill. Two of the posts still remain at the place.

Mr. Cothren was a lover of nature and did much to beautify the grounds about his home. At the north was the fountain with the graceful figure holding a torch. South was the little pool just where the

big rock now stands. Back of the house was the garden. Even now every spring crocus, daffodils, poets narcissus, spring forth. On less than an acre there are a great variety of trees; walnut, butternut, tulip or whitewood, sassafras, mulberry, shadblow, pines, spruces, hemlock, oaks, and beech.

One oak, Henry Jeffrey told the writer was grown from an acorn brought from England, from the tree that an English prince took shelter in when pursued by his enemies. The writer then and there named it the "Royal Oak." It differs from the ordinary oak in leaves, acorns and bark. Mr. Cothren owned the land to the top of the hill, and on a high point he erected a wooden building, that was known as Cothrens Tower.

A late owner of the house remembers seeing the soldiers, in May 1861 assembled in front of the house, preparing to leave for the war. In the Sixties this place was one of the show places of the town. Mr. Cothren rendered a great service to Woodbury, when he wrote the "History of Ancient Woodbury." In some towns this service is kept in memory, by placing a tablet on the houses and other places of historic importance. *Why not in Woodbury?*

EMMA A. SHEA

The Noah Benedict House

The Noah Benedict House

On the 20th of April 1659 Lieutenant Thomas Wheeler one of the original Proprietors of Woodbury received a deed of the entire territory of Ancient Woodbury from the Indians. The bicentennial of this event was celebrated in Woodbury on the 4th and 5th days of July 1859.

In subsequent years this grant was ratified to the original proprietors by numerous deeds from the Indians of New Haven, Fairfield and Litchfield Counties; so that the title to this territory became vested in the original proprietors.

On the 9th of May, 1672, the General Court of the Colony of Connecticut made the following grant: "This Court grants Mr. Samuel Sherman, Lieutenant William Curtice, Ensigns Joseph Judson and John Minor, themselves and associates, liberty to erect a Plantation at Pomperauge, provided it doth not prejudice any former grant to any other plantation or particular person; provided any other honest inhabitants of Stratford have liberty to join with them in settling there; and that they entertain so many inhabitants, as the place will conveniently entertain, and that they settle there within the space of three years." The foregoing form was the origin of every title in Woodbury. Under this grant the four men named thirteen others, who were their "associates" becoming the Original Proprietors of Woodbury.

AN ORIGINAL OWNER

When Rev. Noah Benedict was settled over the First Congregational Church in Woodbury in 1760 among other land laid out to him was the strip of land on which is the well now the property of William McDermott. Rev. Noah Benedict with his own hands dug and stoned up the well in 1760. He occupied his lot until 1813 when his son Hon. Noah B. Benedict received it by heirship and possessed it until his death in 1831. By his will the life use was given to his widow who received the

benefit of it until her death in 1861. Then Hon. N. B. Smith whose mother was Ruth Benedict only daughter of Rev. Noah Benedict inherited the property. It was in his possession until March 24, 1874 when he deeded it to George P. Crane who sold it to C. M. Harvey the present owner in 1883.

IMPROVEMENTS

At this time the kitchen was in the north ell. The original kitchen was in the center of the house. In the "lean-to" adjoining was a cistern the only water supply. A right of way to the well across the road was conveyed in the deed. A new ceiling was put in the kitchen and a new oak floor laid. The lower sashes of the small paned windows were replaced by those of one-paned glass, making more light and sunshine. A porch was addded over the front door and the outside of the house painted white. In a year or two the "lean-to" was removed, the cistern discarded as public water had been substituted and a kitchen built on; the former kitchen being converted into a dining room. At this time the old stone chimney with its huge fireplace and brick oven were taken down and a brick chimney was built on the outside of the new kitchen.

When the present owner moved in there were only two chambers and one small closet upstairs. Back of these rooms were unfinished spaces, with the roof running down to the floor. This roof was raised and a hall and three bedrooms and a bathroom were added, making five bedrooms, a bath, and an attic over the main building constituting the upper floor.

In the course of time the second old stone chimney with four fireplaces was removed and a brick chimney took its place. As the old chimney was nine feet square quite a space was left which was made into much needed closets and the beams around the rooms were formed into wide window seats, adding much to the comfort of the house. In 1915 a wide porch was built at the south end of the house.

In 1922 the owners found themselves alone, and decided that they had too much room. The cellar which originally was under a part of the house was dug out and another furnace added. We were surprised to find the sills and supports in perfect condition. The minister's study was converted into a kitchen; the place where so many sermons and words of wisdom were written is now used for the necessary work of everyday living. The house is now a comfortable home for two families.

Although changes have been made the beams, the hand wrought nails and old doors with original hinges remain, making the old house which was three years in building one of the oldest homes in Woodbury.

NELLIE DEWS HARVEY

The Edward W. Abrams House

"Old Place" the Residence of Edward W. Abrams

Our town files and records show that one of the original tracts included property now known as the Abrams home, and that it was set out to John Minor who was a member of the committee appointed by the General Court. The said committee drew up articles as to the distribution of the lands. The first deed was drawn, signed and recorded all at the same date, April 7, 1697. This deed would indicate that "Old Place," the name given by Mr. and Mrs. Abrams to their home, was built between 1697 and 1757.

The home faces north, with Good Hill at the west, Castle Rock at the south and Orenaug range at the east. It had originally two stories or a story and a half with attic and nine rooms. In the attic today it can be seen where the different roofs have been, and where the old central stone chimney was built up with brick to accommodate a higher roof.

The house was of the plain Connecticut farm house type without paneling, and with wall cupboards only in one room. The large fireplace with brick oven in the back corner, similar to that of the Glebe House, is in the long room at the back of the house. The chimney is of stone with log cribbing. Additions to this house in extensions and porches have made its appearance quite different today from what it was originally. There are several interesting stories told of this place.

One is relative to the little front stairway which was originally walled in. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lambert were residents. Mrs. Lambert being very clever with her hands, and resourceful, chose an opportunity when her husband was away for a few days to make a long

wished for change. She took down the partition wall herself, then went to the attic for bed posts and nails which she herself made into a railing with posts for an open stairway. If Mr. Lambert had any objections to make upon his return, it was too late. This stairway still stands.

Another story is told of a more recent owner, who brought with him from a neighboring town their beautiful stone door step and a very fine old brass knocker. In course of time the lady became a widow and wanted to sell her property. A purchaser came. Before closing the deal she, quite naturally, took her knocker from the door. When the purchaser noticed this, he threatened to withdraw from the deal unless the knocker was restored. Consequently the present owners are enjoying this same beautiful brass knocker.

Following is a list of owners: John Minor, Joseph Minor, David Minor, Joseph Minor, Albert Minor, Stephen Daley, John Abernathy, Charles Summers and T. C. Upson, Henry Lambert, T. L. Shea, Franklin Judson, Burton Shove, Edward W. Abrams.

Cornelia L. Abrams

Castle Rock, Pomperaug's Fortress

The John Minor House

Our sturdy forefathers after a weary wandering in the deep forests stood upon the summit of "Good Hill," the first local name selected and gazed into the wild and beautiful valley divided by a lovely winding river seeking for a place to build their homes. They bought land at Pomperaug. They had been granted liberty by the General Court to form a plantation there and that was all there was of designation.

As Captain John Minor and his sturdy companions entered this territory which was then the farthest point from the coast and had larger rivers than had been explored, two hundred and sixty years ago, they saw that the wilderness must be reclaimed, houses must be built, and the church of God with its acompanying school house must be built from the forest trees and all objects must receive names. It was natural that they should name the place where they had the pleasure of beholding their future homes "Good Hill." It was a place of good views and of good lands. The place where Woodbury now stands was cultivated by the Indians and planted with scant crops of corn and beans. It was then called "The Plains."

Captain John Minor, the leading man among the colonists, had been educated as missionary to the Indians, and understood their language. He delighted in giving the places their beautiful Indian names and he, in his office of surveyor parceled out the lands among the pioneers. Captain John Minor's house being the first one completed and built of logs was located six or eight rods south of the late Horace Minor's residence on a little knoll. The well used by him was discovered at this place in the spring of 1869 its walls still in a good state of preservation, though it had been covered over and its exact location unknown for more than one hundred years.

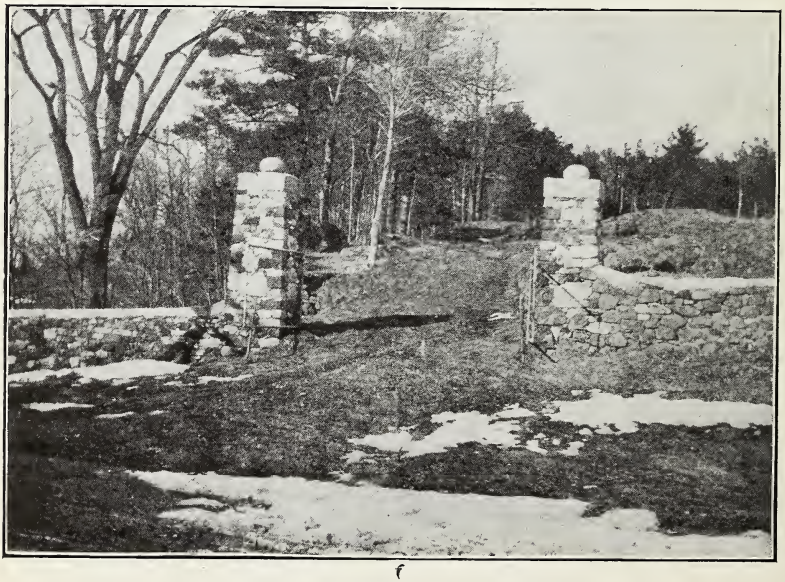
By the tradition handed down in the family the palisades about the house were fifteen feet in height above the surface of the ground after being set in place. When in 1707 the order came to fortify the town the people set about the work of preparing the defenses. They repaired the fortified house of Captain John Minor.

The motto of the Minor coat of arms reads, "Honorable not Mercenary." Captain John Minor's daughter Grace married Samuel Grant, Jr., of Windsor, Connecticut. She thus became the ancestress of General Ulysses S. Grant the President of the United States.

The sons of the pioneer Captain John Minor who died September 17, 1719 had their home lots on the hill where the family of Horace Minor now resides. Captain Matthew Minor succeeded to the homestead of his father Ephraim Minor which was identical with that of Captain John Minor and lived in a house south of Erastus Minor's dwelling house. This was the palisaded house which we have mentioned.

About 1778 the old red house with its large fireplace and exposed overhead beams; its old oak floors and doors with hand wrought hinges and latches and small window panes was built by Deacon Matthew Minor. This is still standing back of the present house which was built by his son Erastus Minor. This place has been occupied by the Minor family since the original deed from the Indians in 1659.

FLORENCE NICHOLS BEECHER



The Gates of Orenaug Park

The Drakeley House

The Old Drakeley House, West Side

The old Drakeley house, located opposite the West Side school house, has been owned by at least four generations of Drakeleys, and is thought to be over two hundred years old. Cothren's History states that Thomas Drakeley came early to Woodbury via Stratford, and that the date of his home-lot was 1685. A search of the Woodbury records has disclosed the fact that in the year 1725 Thomas Drakeley, Sr. gave to his son Thomas, Jr. all his Woodbury possessions, which included land on the Good Hill, down through West Side and on to Transylvania. There are those who think that the original home was in what is now the part of Southbury called Poverty. This locality was formerly a part of Woodbury, and it is known that at one time the Drakeleys owned land extending as far as the Shepaug River and probably north from the Poverty district to what is now West Side.

It is also known that there were at least five Drakeley houses. Two of them now gone were located on the old road to Roxbury not far from the point where it turned off from the present road over Good Hill. The chimney alone remains of another Drakeley house in West Side, and the house now owned by Mr. Del Po was also a Drakeley place.

The old house opposite the school house is without doubt the original West Side Drakeley home. Just which Drakeley built it, if any, is not known. It is quite likely, however, that a son of Thomas Drakeley 1st came to West Side from what is now Southbury and built the house.

The architecture was originally similar to that of the Glebe House. The paneling, staircase, large fireplaces, and Dutch oven in the kitchen are almost an exact counterpart of those in the Glebe House, leading one to suppose that they were built about the same time.

The wide pine flooring the house contains was in use before oak, the old hinges are there and most of the doors have hand made latches. On the second floor leading to the attic are divided stairs going up each side of what used to be an old stone chimney. In recent years this was replaced with brick for fear of fire.

About seventy-five or more years ago, the back roof was raised to make more room thus changing the long slope of it. Antique experts have scraped down to the red and blue paint in the rooms and it is safe to say that this house is one of the oldest in Woodbury. The old insurance plate over the front door is a curiosity.

IDA NORTON MUNSON

The Lieutenant John Strong House

Lieutenant John Strong's House

Lieutenant John Strong served the Town of Woodbury and his country with distinction during the Revolutionary War. His good management saved the American artillery from capture on the night of August 29, 1776 during the retreat of the Americans after the disastrous battle of Long Island on August 27, 1776.

It is a tradition that George Washington once stayed in this house when he made a tour of the Colonies after the war. He spent the night with Lieutenant John Strong and from there went to Waterbury where he was a dinner guest of Esquire Bronson. Wishing to know what was going on in the Councils of State he asked many questions but got little information. General Washington said: "Esquire Bronson can you keep a secret?" Mr. Bronson assured him that he could. Then said General Washington, "So can I."

Colonial note book of Lottie E. Hitchcock

The Z. S. Webb House

The Z. S. Webb House

The "Moody" or as it is now called the "Webb" place was built about 1721. Gideon Walker in 1781 willed it to his adopted son Zachariah Walker. The list of owners and dates follow.

Nathan Preston 1785; Phineas Deming 1786; Jabez Bacon 1786; Phineas Deming (again) 1796; David Talman 1796; Nathan Preston 1798; Robert Crane 1798; Barzalial Hillard 1805; James Moody 1807; Dr. Charles Webb 1835; Dr. Z. Swift Webb 1877; Maude M. Strauch 1909.

Many minor alterations have been made by its various owners, but none changed the original lines of the architcture. It is a copy of the Miles Standish house, a boat turned upside down. As there was a tax on houses of two stories built at this time, the gambrel roof was used to make it one story and a half. On the front and back of the house, there were windows only on the ground floor. The bed-chambers were lighted from windows on the sides.

Mr. Nash, the architect who restored the "Glebe House," often spoke of the roof of this house as "a classic." The house was built around the great stone chimney. There are two front rooms, one on each side of the chimney. A short, narrow hall connects them. Opening from this hall is the double Dutch front door, and the door to the narrow steep stairs, which leads to the five bed chambers above. The original small paned windows on the front and sides of the house were replaced by sash and cord windows in 1895 by Dr. Z. Swift Webb. On the ground floor, in the back, the old windows remain.

Across the greater part of the back of the house runs the large kitchen, with its immense fire-place and the Dutch oven, which is still intact. The hearth stone in front of this fire-place is eight feet long. Opening from the kitchen on the north end is the old ground floor bed-

chamber, where the old folks usually slept and kept the fire going in the kitchen, at night. On the other end of this kitchen is the hall with its large battened door for a side entrance. This hall also contains the back stairs and the stairs to the cellar.

The floors in the bed-chambers are made of very wide oak boards, many being eighteen inches wide. About 1807, James Moody replaced the wide boards of the ground floor rooms with narrow six inch boards. All of the original nails found in these floors were hand forged, which is quite proof of the great antiquity of the house. The solid oak beams are hand hewn. Many of the beams in the cellar still have the bark on them. The upper part of the chimney was also changed from stone to brick making it somewhat smaller, but keeping the three fire-places on the ground floor intact.

There is a close connection between this house and the "Moody-Douglas House," now the property of Mrs. Lofmark. These two houses were said to be just alike originally. The remains of the old stile is still in the stone fence, although the very large stepping stone was removed a few years ago. This short cut across the lot was used for many years by the Moody families.

It is interesting to know that this house was the home of that James Moody who put the inscription (often quoted and much sought out, among strangers), on the tombstone of his first wife, "Here lies food for worms, the body of Lucy, wife of James Moody." This inscription is on a stone behind the church in the lower cemetery. James Moody was a prominent Mason and a vestryman in the Episcopal Church and has lineal descendants in Southbury.

The house today is used as the summer home of the Strauch family.

MAUDE M. STRAUCH

The Curtis House

The Curtis House

In the "Connecticut Magazine" we read;

"The old Orenaug Inn (Curtis House) stood hard by the road leading through the ancient village of Woodbury, and was about the first building approached by the traveller from the south. It seemed, and still seems, to stand like a sentinel guarding the long, tree embowered street of the town, for as one goes up by way of the Southbury road, which is over the old Indian Trail, once leading from the Housatonic River to Bantam, the demarcation betwixt the open country and the village is sudden enough to cause surprise. And if abrupt today, it was far more so over a century ago, as, to the south, for many miles, lay a semi-wilderness broken only by the river, and the clearings of the yeomanry who had chosen for their homes this fair valley of the Pomperaug."

This Curtis House, one of the leading hotels in Litchfield County, was built in 1754 by Anthony Stoddard, and adjoined the residence of his father, the Reverend Anthony Stoddard.

Among the names of the early proprietors of the Curtis House are those belonging to families honored for their ability, devotion and patriotism during the Revolutionary War. There is no record of an occupant between the builder, Anthony Stoddard, and Mrs. Damaris Gilchrist (widow of the Peter Gilchrist who kept a tavern in the house now owned by Chester Fowler, and where Generals Washington and Lafayette were entertained over night as their armies passed through), but she was occupying the Curtis House in 1796, and her husband died in 1783, about thirteen years earlier. On October 3, 1796, we find that the Masonic Lodge voted to remove to a room to be prepared for them in Mr. Gilchrist's house. The contract as told in the history of King Solomon's Lodge is interesting. Meetings were held here for a period of

twenty-five years, when after an interval of fifteen years in another hall, they were again removed to the Curtis House, which at that time, 1837, was known as Kelly's Hotel. They occupied this room for two years, then the present Lodge was completed. Then followed: Moseley, Talman, Clark, Hatch, Marshall, Wheeler, Benham, Hall, Bradley, Hull, and Hyde, Ransom, Betts, Lewis Judd, Garry Riggs, William Curtiss, Charles B. Peck, Riley, Seigur, Atwood, Smith, Fenn, Hotchkiss, Foot, Foot and Gale, Perkins, Kelly 1797, Green, Wheaton, David Curtiss, Mrs. Edna Curtis, Heale, Mrs. MacMurty, Levi E. Curtis proprietor for twenty-five years, J. A. Sullivan.

Many of the beams, and some of the fireplaces are as originally built. Among the interesting items about the house, is the fact that the entire second story of the main part of the building was a ball room, with arched ceiling, and evidently a fireplace in each end of the room, one of which remains today. The daughters of Levi Curtis remember that at a time when their father was making repairs in this room, an inner or false wall was removed, and still tacked on the original wall, were dried flowers left there from decorations of the last reception given in the room.

While it has been necessary for the later proprietors to make additions, construct piazzas, and install the modern comforts, still the interior of the "House" has been changed as little as might be, and the furnishings are in keeping with the age of the building. The new and attractive signs are the work of Wallace Nutting. A. N. Lewis a number of years ago wrote a poem for the Waterbury American—"Woodbury In the Fifties," the first paragraph of which is as follows:

"There are no times 'like the good old times,' which some of us remember,
When birds of spring were on the wing (Alas, 'tis now December!)
When 'Perk,' and Kelly kept hotel, and Cramer 'called' for dances,
When rides and balls, and walks and calls, were full of sweet romances!

. . . . . .

When moonlight walks upon the 'Rocks,' from June until November
Were all the rage—it seems an age—but some of us remember."

GRACE CURTIS SULLIVAN

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